The Middlebury Campus

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MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A display at Mobil gas station in Middlebury offers tobacco and e-cigarette products, which can no longer be purchased by customers under 21 years old.

Middlebury Foods bags up last bites

By ARIADNE WILL
Staff Writer

After six years of grocery delivery service, Middlebury Foods ran its final routes last weekend. Unable to financially support its business model, it will no longer continue as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Since the fall of 2013, Middlebury Foods has operated monthly deliveries of fresh and local foods to six locations around Addison County. Customers would place orders ahead of time, then student volunteers would pack and deliver groceries to the six sites.

Close to the beginning of every month, Middlebury Foods would conduct a 'delivery weekend.'

"We would take all of the delivery food to our storage place in Shoreham, which had a big refrigeration house," Middlebury Foods General Manager Kate Peters '20 said.

Peters told The Campus that Middlebury Foods' model worked due to volunteer work put in by students. The organization was entirely student-run, and was able to sell high-quality food at cheap prices because of its low fixed costs: a U-Haul rental, paying for refrigeration

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COURTESY PHOTO

Cameron Weiner, '20.5 (left), Nora Peachin '21 (center) and Hollis Rhodes '20 (right) set up at a Middlebury Foods delivery site in Vergennes.

LANGUAGE SCHOOL STUDENT CLEARED OF POLICY VIOLATION

By HANNAH BENSEN
News Editor

When Arabic Middlebury Language student Amitai Ben-Abba '15 attended an informational session hosted by an organization with which he fundamentally disagreed, the question was not *if* he would voice his opinion, but *how*.

Ben-Abba attended the eight-week Arabic Middlebury Language School at Mills College in California this summer. During the seventh week of classes, on July 29, two recruiters from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) held an information session for students. Students could subsequently sign up for individual interviews the next day if they wished to ask additional questions.

"I listened respectfully when the CIA officers spoke," Ben-Abba wrote in an open letter to the Dean of Middlebury Language Schools (MLS) on August 8. "I raised my hand during the Q&A section, awaited my turn, and when called upon, asked: 'If accepted to work for the CIA, would we also be involved in destabilizing regimes, kidnapping people, torturing them and sending them to secret prisons around the world?'"

The information session was scheduled to last two hours and to give a general overview of CIA operations, as well as possibilities for internships or employment. During the second hour of the presentation, a few students, including Ben-Abba, began criticizing the operations of the CIA, including its use of enhanced interrogation techniques. Once other students with differing opinions joined the debate, creating heated student-to-student discussion, the CIA officials decided to cut the information session one hour short.

Several students who attended the event expressed to The Campus their disappointment that the session was cut short, which impeded their ability to learn more about job opportunities at the CIA. These students spoke to reporters under the condition that The Campus not publish direct quotes.

Ben-Abba does not feel that he or his colleagues deprived students of an opportunity to learn more about the CIA, noting that the CIA officials "stayed long after the session and answered questions to anyone who came up to them."

On Aug. 7, Ben-Abba was sent

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NEW VERMONT LAW BANS TOBACCO, VAPING UNDER 21

By RILEY BOARD
News Editor

For Vermont residents under 21, the use, possession and purchase of tobacco products and nicotine delivery systems is no longer legal in the state. The college's newly-expanded Health and Wellness Education office will oversee efforts to support students seeking to quit smoking, and will spearhead campaigns to inform the community about the risks of tobacco and nicotine.

The "Tobacco 21" law went into effect Sept. 1 and applies to all tobacco products, substitutes, paraphernalia and nicotine delivery systems, including e-cigarettes like JUULs. Vermont is the 14th state to change the age for tobacco purchase from 18 to 21. In an all-campus email, Dean of Students Baishakhi Taylor announced that the college is supportive of this legislation because the relationship between young adults and nicotine can have drastic long-term consequences.

"The younger people are, the more likely they are to become addicted to nicotine," she wrote.

Kevin Kareckas, who started as the college's first alcohol and other drug education specialist this fall, said his work focuses on studying and changing the culture around substance use at Middlebury, especially in social settings. With the new Tobacco 21 legislation, a large part of his job has centered around the relationship between students and tobacco products.

There is ample evidence that smoking and vaping has long-term negative consequences. Ninety-nine percent of tobacco users start smoking before the age of 26, according to the U.S. Surgeon General, and nine out of 10 e-cigarette users switch to traditional cigarettes eventually. Smokers who began the habit before the age of 18 are much more likely to continue as adults.

"From a systemic point of view, this law is a big deal, but it's also going to be a long uphill battle," Kareckas said.

Middlebury is not a smoke-free or tobacco-free campus, although smoking is prohibited in all buildings, building structures like porches and balconies, and within 25 feet of any building. However, in the coming weeks, Taylor said that the Community Council will begin discussing "the scope of making our Vermont campus smoke-free."

The school will offer resources through both the Health and Wellness Education office and the Parton Health Center to support all students, especially those disproportionately affected by the legislation change. Various institutions on campus will be adapting in different ways to accommodate the new laws.

Associate Director of Public Safety Keith Ellery said that the department is already adapting to the new laws.

"When members of our staff encounter an individual whom they believe to be under 21 and that individual is either smoking or in possession of tobacco products, they will be informed of the law and provided an informational card, which was devel-

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JV sports canceled

College cites lack of games, sports medicine guidelines

By JACK KAGAN
Sports Editor

Junior varsity sports, long popular among students wanting to participate in competitive athletics without committing to the rigor of a varsity team, were cancelled prior to the start of classes this fall.

The Middlebury College Athletics Department, which coordinated junior varsity athletics, canceled the program amid concerns over a lack of scheduled games and new NCAA sports medicine guidelines that had put a strain on athletic trainers, according to Director of Athletics Erin Quinn.

"Because most institutions do not have JV sports, it is difficult to create a credible, practical schedule," wrote Quinn in an email to the Campus. Williams College, historically a regular opponent for Middlebury's JV teams, recently dropped their JV women's soccer and lacrosse teams.

Most recently, the college offered JV teams for men's and women's soccer, men's hockey and women's lacrosse.

Alongside the scheduling difficulties, Quinn said that a new set of medical "best practices" released this summer by the NCAA was another driving factor in the decision. The guidelines were designed for varsity athletic programs, Quinn said, but Middlebury had long provided athletic trainers to JV programs as well as varsity ones.

"We had similar medical oversight and expectations for our JV and varsity programs, and the new standards are difficult to meet with how the JV programs were operated," Quinn wrote.

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College rolls out new inclusivity workshops for faculty and staff

By SARAH ASCH
Senior News Editor

The college is launching a new workshop program for faculty and staff that will give employees tools to check their biases and create an inclusive campus environment. Called the Inclusive Practitioners Program, this new initiative comes in the wake of several high profile bias incidents in classrooms last spring.

Renee Wells, director of education for equity and inclusion, has designed 14 workshops this fall. She explained that the workshops fall under three different tracks: inclusive design for learning, engaging and supporting diverse communities, and climate and dynamics in learning environments.

The workshops are open to faculty and staff, and participants can either choose to register for individual sessions or to enroll in the program. Program participants commit to attending three workshops this year, as well as brown bag lunch sessions where faculty and staff meet to discuss workshop material further.

Wells said the program is designed to offer faculty and staff the choice to engage in the kind of learning they want surrounding how to create a more inclusive campus community.

"People can self-select whatever sessions they want," she said. "If you're enrolled in the program, you've agreed to do three workshops but all three could be in inclusive design. It doesn't direct faculty into any particular track."

While many students called for mandatory anti-bias training in the wake of offensive material being used in classrooms last spring, Wells said in her experience opt-in programs work better.

"You can't give someone a training that makes them not biased," she said. "It's a process of becoming critically more aware. All of these workshops collectively are meant to create ongoing opportunities for people to build capacity across all these areas."

Wells hopes to attract motivated faculty from the start, and encourages participants to discuss what they have learned with their colleagues to increase interest further. Many faculty and staff, Wells said, have preconceived ideas of what development

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Renee Wells designed the Inclusive Practitioners in response to several classroom bias incidents last spring.

workshops look like that might make them less interested in participating in these discussions.

"We've all sat through really terrible workshops," she said. "What I've found is once faculty start participating in them they realize very quickly, 'wow this is really different than I thought it was going to be and I see where I'm benefiting from this.' So it tends to lead to increased participation."

The first workshop, scheduled for Sept. 25, is titled "Turning tension into learning opportunities: responding to offensive comments in the classroom."

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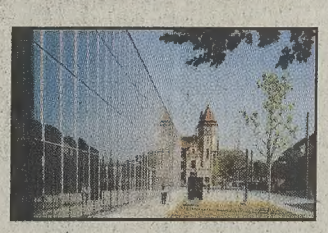

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Baseball standout Colby Morris '19 aims for big leagues
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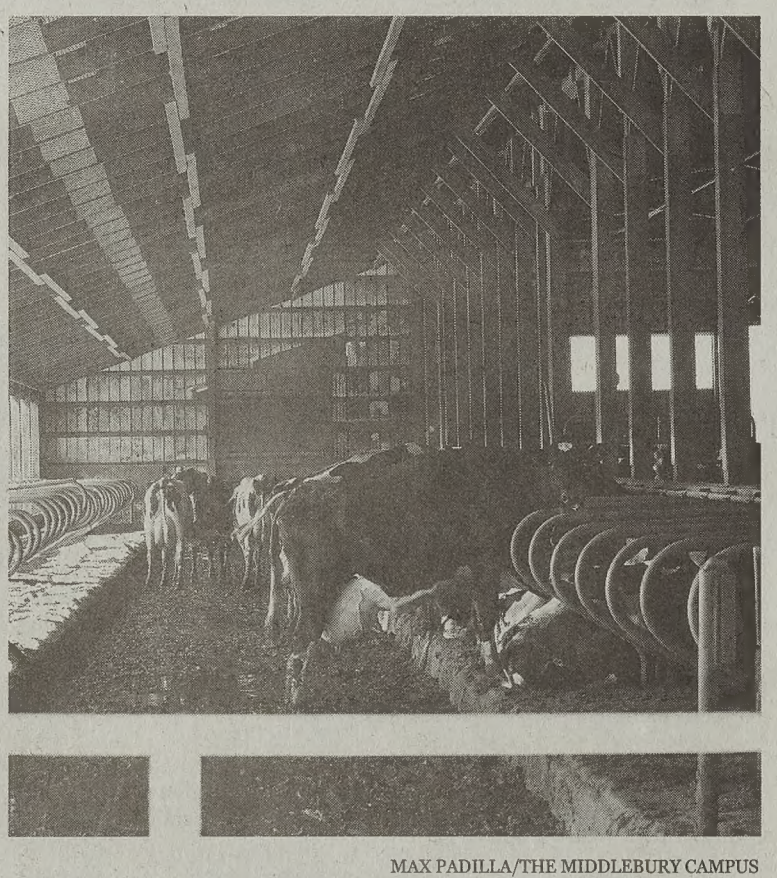
College partners with state for anaerobic digester facility

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Goodrich Farm houses 900 milking cows at their location, 5.6 miles from campus. The new digester will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the cows and provide energy to the college.



MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Cows at Goodrich Farm in Salisbury, Vt., will provide 100 tons of manure daily for the anaerobic digester.

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Staff Writer

Middlebury College broke ground on an anaerobic digester facility at the end of August, pushing the college towards its goal of using 100% renewable energy sources by 2028. The digester, the first of its kind in Vermont, will combine cow manure and food waste to convert the energy stored in organic materials present in the manure into Renewable Natural Gas (RNG).

During the event, spokespeople from the college, Vanguard Renewables, Goodrich Farm and the State of Vermont gathered at Goodrich Farm in Salisbury, Vt., to discuss the significance of the facility for the community and the college.

"This is a unique partnership between a Vermont college, local dairy farm, utility, and renewable energy company," said John Hanselman, executive chairman and CEO of Vanguard Renewables. "The exciting result will be a sustainable source of energy that didn't previously exist and the recycling of tons of organic waste that was once sent to landfills. The project will also enable food producers and users in Vermont to comply with Act 148, Vermont's Universal Recycling law that bans all food waste from landfills and goes into effect in 2020."

Vanguard, a renewable energy company based in Wellesley, Mass., will build, own and operate the digester. Vanguard currently owns and operates five other digesters located in Massachusetts, and its collaboration with Middlebury will be its first with a college.

"There isn't another college in the country that's in a partnership with a digester," Hanselman said. "Middlebury is a true leader in this regard."

The college will be the primary consumer of the RNG produced at the dairy farm. The energy from the digester is created by combining locally sourced food waste with the cow manure. This allows for a process of anaerobic digestion to take place and produce renewable gas that will be used to supply approximately 50% of the energy the college uses for heating and cooling. The other 50 % will be supplied by the college's biomass plant.

Gabe Desmond, '20.5, a student organizer and summer Sustainability Solutions Lab intern, toured the project site at Goodrich Farm.

"Although we meet the majority of our heating needs from gasifying woodchips in our biomass plant, during peak consumption, we still rely on fossil fuels, namely fracked natural gas," he said. "Fracked gas is not only bad in terms of climate change, but it is also detrimental to the communities who live near fracking sites. Transitioning to RNG that comes from manure and food waste will allow us to stop relying on fracking, while also repurposing food waste and manure."

Vermont Gas, another shareholder in the Goodrich Farm digester, is spearheading the construction process of the five-mile pipeline that will connect the farm with the company's pipeline network in Addison County. Once completed, the natural gas produced at the farm will travel via the pipeline to Middlebury College's main power plant.

Beth Parent, the communications and brand manager of Vermont Gas Systems, said that her company is the first local distribution company in the country to offer customers a renewable natural gas service.

"With the Vanguard project, VGS is proud to have a local source of RNG, with all of the benefits it brings to this community and our state," she said. "This is another big win for Vermont — a big step forward in helping achieve Vermont's clean energy goals, and we at VGS are proud to do our part."

The digester is expected to produce 180,000 Mcf per year, with each Mcf containing 1,000 cubic feet of renewable natural gas. The college will buy 100,000 Mcfs from Vanguard, Vermont Gas will buy 40,000 Mcf and Vanguard will retain 40,000 Mcf.

While the partnership between Middlebury College, Vanguard Renewables, Vermont Gas and Goodrich Farm was announced in 2017, the Goodrich family and the college first engaged in talks of such a project over a decade ago, and have been working on it in various forms ever since.

"Our family is excited to see this project transition from a dream into a reality," said Chase Goodrich, who is among the fourth generation of his family to operate the farm.

The farm will reap the benefits of the digester, both environmentally and financially; free heat for farm use and an annual lease payment for hosting the digester will diversify the farm's revenue sources.

According to Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts, the environmental benefits of the digester all have serious potential to transform the dairy industry, one of the main contributors to climate change. These benefits include the production of quality liquid fertilizer that will reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers, as well as a reduction in the farm's phosphorus levels and greenhouse gas emissions.

At the digester's launch, Tebbetts credited the Goodrich family for their leadership.

"We hope a project like this spark more innovative partnerships that include other Vermont farms," Tebbetts said.

President Laurie Patton voiced a similar sentiment, confident that the facility will "provide our students and faculty with new research and teaching opportunities" and will serve as a fundamental component in the college's Energy 2028 plan.

The 2028 initiative also includes a 25% reduction in overall energy use and a complete divestment of Middlebury's endowment in fossil fuels.

Construction of the anaerobic digester is slated to be completed by 2020.

College Democrats host debate watch party

By KAYLA LICHTMAN
Staff Writer

Crossroads Cafe was packed Thursday night, Sep. 12 with students interested in taking in the third Democratic presidential debate. The watch party, hosted by the Middlebury College Democrats, invited students to engage with the national political process in advance of the 2020 elections.

The debate took place at Texas Southern University in Houston, with 10 candidates on stage answering questions for several hours. Given the sheer number of candidates vying for the presidency, Thursday's debate — the third of 12 in total — came with heightened qualifying criteria. To earn their place on stage, candidates had to meet a polling threshold of 2% or more in at least four different polls. They also had to receive donations from 130,000 people, alongside 400 donors per state in at least 20 states.

With the debate broadcast on the big screens, students gathered to watch their favorite candidates discuss their platforms.

"I hope that making it easy and fun for students to watch the debates will help Democratic voters on campus to get clarity on who they want to vote for, and, ideally, create more energy and excitement for the elections," said Isla Bowery '20.5, the president of the Middlebury College Democrats, often called the College Dems.

The three-hour-long debate tackled some of the country's most pressing issues. Moderators from ABC and Univision opened with questions on health care, a highly-contested topic among candidates. Under the attentive gaze of the audience, the conversation shifted to issues of racism, gun control, immigration, the trade war with China and more.

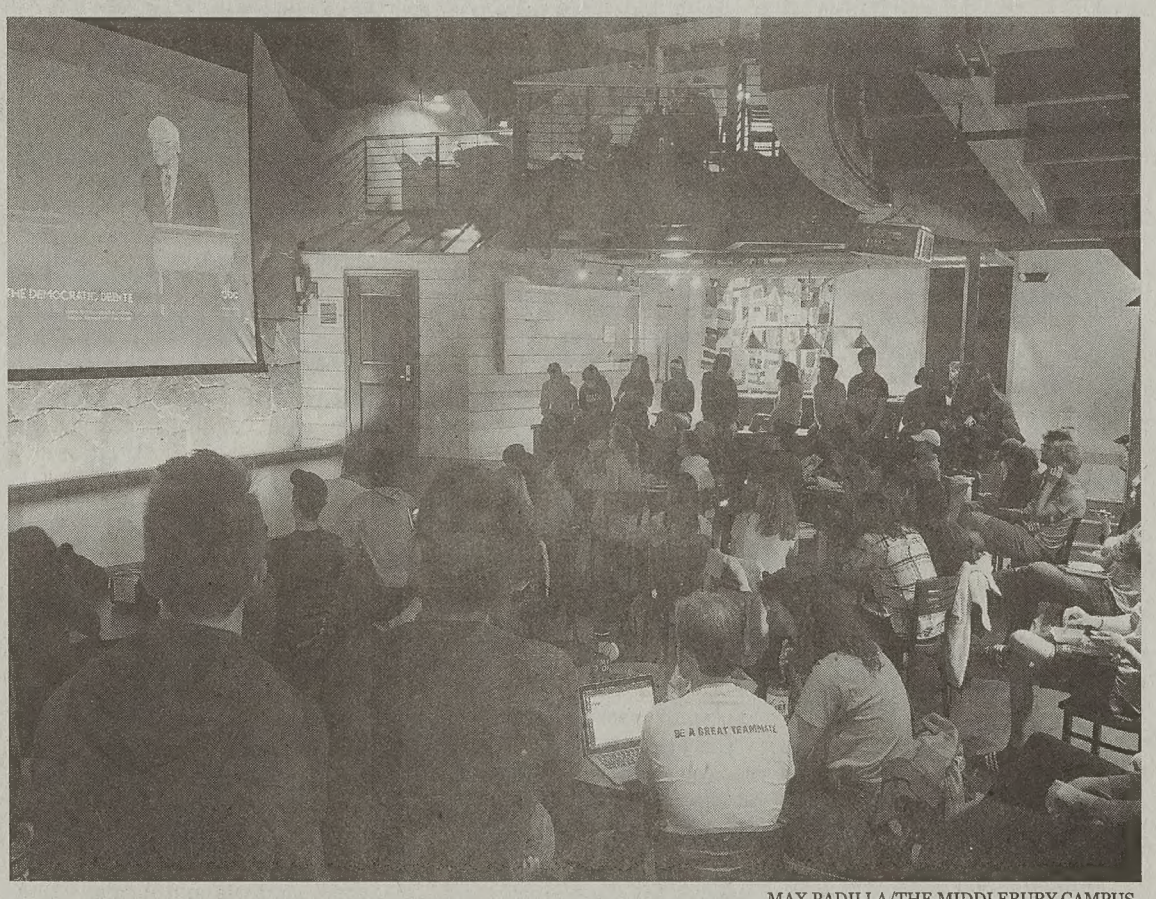
"Hearing many of the candidates not only admit that America has a racism problem, but also suggest policies to try to remedy it makes me cautiously optimistic about the direction our country could go if we flip the White House blue," said Suria Vanrajah '22, vice-president of the College Dems.

With each topic, candidates took pains to try and distinguish their policy from their opponents' platforms. The extent to which they succeeded in that task, however, was up for debate, students at the watch party said.

"The current debate format isn't made for actually presenting the platforms, I feel like it's made for pandering and saying things that catch people's attention," Nyreke Peters '21 said. "I feel like when you watch this, you don't really get a full grasp of the candidates' policies."

While some students thought the candidates had similar messages, others felt the debate provided clarity on what makes each candidate unique.

"I think that the differences in the candidates are becoming more apparent, which is helpful for undecided voters," Bowery said. "In comparison to the previous two rounds of debates, I found that the candidates were putting forth more cogent and well laid-out policy platforms."



MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students gathered in McCullough to watch the Democratic presidential hopefuls talk about their platforms.

One thing attendees could agree on was the importance of being politically involved at this particular moment in time, whether that means watching the debates, staying up-to-date with the news, looking out for Twitter alerts or volunteering for their favorite candidates.

For many, this feels like an important way of breaking out of the so-called "Middlebury bubble" that can surround the campus. For some students, this will be the first major election-cycle in which they can cast a vote, which makes being engaged feel even more important.

Overall, Vanrajah said, the event was a success.

"We weren't expecting many people to show up, since it was the first week of classes, but seeing so many people, especially so many freshmen, definitely makes me optimistic about future events during this election cycle and after," she said.

As the democratic primaries and caucuses near, the College Dems hope to continue to engage students through events such as phone banking, canvassing in New Hampshire and voter registration drives. The club will also continue to host screenings of all the debates alongside talks from professors, straw polls and debate bingo.

Workshops to address bias on campus

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Wells has designed the workshops as spaces of self reflection where participants can build new skills. She explained that some of the workshops will be in a presentation format, and others will involve group problem solving around common issues that come up in the classroom.

Many faculty members and staff have expressed interest in both the workshops and the program. As of the print deadline, 26 faculty and 27 staff have enrolled in the program, and another eight faculty and staff members have registered for one or more individual workshops.

Assistant Professor of Economics Tanya Byker signed up for all the workshops that fit in her schedule.

"When it comes to creating an inclusive classroom, I am pretty sure I don't even know what I don't know," she said. "Ignorance is no excuse for screwing this up, especially when I am being offered an opportunity to learn."

Hector Vila, an associate professor of writing and rhetoric, hopes the five workshops he has signed up for will help guide dialogue about how professors engage on Middlebury's changing campus.

"As a teacher and professor, it's my responsibility to keep learning, trying to always be better, more creative about what I do," he said. "We have a changing student body, we have a changing culture, and so we have to address our teaching so that we can meet the needs of students, now and tomorrow."

Carol Wood, the college's costume shop director, decided to participate in the full program. She said she's looking forward to the workshops' less-structured atmosphere, which she hopes will allow for participants to share ideas and hear other perspectives more openly.

"It is so necessary to open our minds to other ways of thinking about how the world should work, how we can make sure everyone has a fair shake, how we can transcend our cultural bias," she said. "I want to become more aware of my own biases, have fewer blind spots, and pass on that learning to others."

"As a teacher and professor, it's my responsibility to keep learning, trying to always be better."

According to Wells, the workshops will be offered more than once for faculty who could not attend the first time, and new sessions will be added. She hopes that, as the program continues, it will start to reach hesitant faculty and staff and start to create true cultural change.

"Part of what we're trying to do is build this as an expectation for part of the work at Middlebury," she said.

Part of that expectation will also come out of new hiring practices that ask prospective faculty about how they incorporate inclusivity into their work.

"If you're submitting something in your application, if you're going to be asked about it in your interview, if when you get here you are invited to participate in this program, [the culture] shifts."

Wells has been pleased to see the interest in faculty and staff have already expressed for the program's first steps.

"A lot of people have already signed up for three or more workshops already in the fall semester," she said. "It's funny because ever since the workshop line up came out ... people will start talking, and then I feel like I'm Elizabeth Warren because I'm like 'I've got a workshop for that.'"

College responds to Tobacco 21 legislation

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oped by Middlebury College's Office of Health and Wellness Education," Ellery said. The card will describe the health impacts of nicotine use, resources for quitting and the legal guidelines.

Then, beginning in January or February, students under 21 who are found by Public Safety to have violated the policies of underage tobacco and nicotine use or possession will be subject to mandatory educational interventions similar to the educational interventions mandated by other drug or alcohol infractions. Additionally, a report with the names of students in violation of the policy will be sent to the Office of Community Standards.

Members of the Health and Wellness Education office are prepared to support students affected by the new legislation through several programs. Students who have a Public Safety encounter will begin a compulsory Tobacco Education program with Health and Wellness. This could include opt-in cessation programs like Freshstart, which gathers groups of students looking to quit tobacco for four hour-long meetings a semester. More information about this program will become available in October.

"We have no punitive approaches, it's just us meeting people where they're at," Kareckas said. "I'm not a substance use counselor, so nothing I'm doing is going to change future behavior — I can't make a decision for you and tell you that's going to make a difference later. It's really about providing the opportunity to reflect and use those strategies."

Karekas himself hopes to become a resource to students struggling with tobacco and nicotine usage. To schedule appointments with him, students can go to go/meetwithkevin.

"People can also meet with me in person, one-on-one in an environment of their choosing, even if they're just concerned about a friend," he said.

The Parton Health Center will continue playing the same role it has in the past when it comes to student tobacco use, according to Managing Nurse Practitioner Sandy Robinson.

Parton has "historically counseled any student who discloses that they use tobacco of the dangers and advised that they quit," Robinson said. Nurses refer students to 802quits.org, an online state resource for quitting tobacco. They have also referred students to cessation counselors as Porter Medical Center.

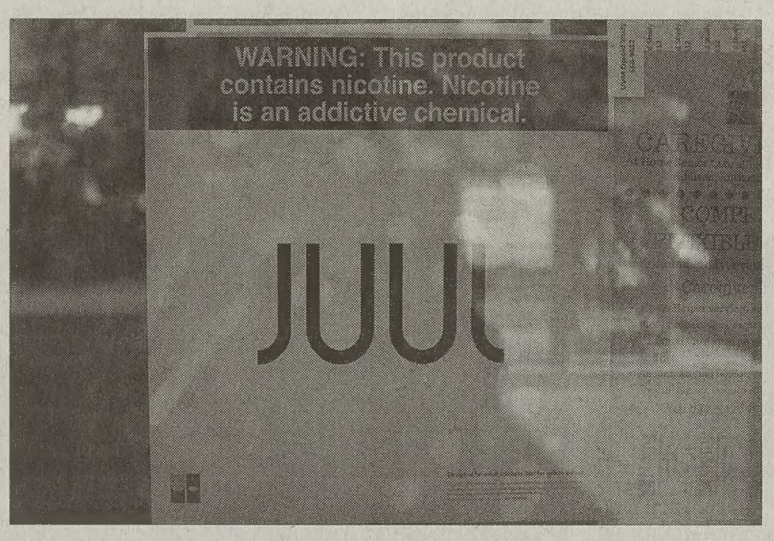
Robinson also described the unique threat of vaping and e-cigarette usage.

"We have recently become more concerned about the potential for an acute lung injury that has been attributed to vaping. It is our intention to screen students, when they present to the Health Center, for use of tobacco products, vape pens and e-cigarettes," she said.

Parton's nurse hotline, 802-443-3290, can be utilized during open hours for questions regarding tobacco and nicotine use.

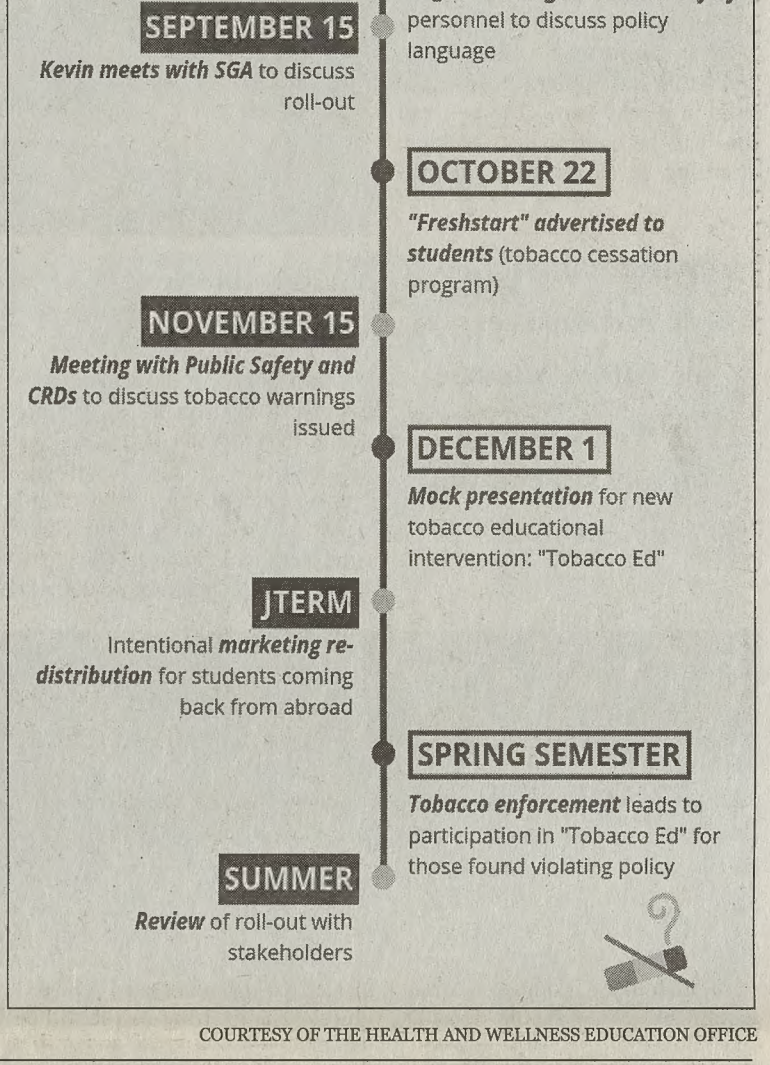
Parton has always advised cessation, and their tobacco education and wellness related efforts will not change specifically as a result of Tobacco 21.

Students looking to learn more about campus resources can visit go/talktobacco.



MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

JUULs are among the tobacco, nicotine and e-cigarette products that are no longer legal for purchase, use or posession by students under 21.


ROLL OUT OF:
TOBACCO
21
CONTEXT: The Governor of Vermont signed legislation into law raising the tobacco age to 21, effective September 1st, 2019. This is Middlebury College's response.
JULY 1, 2019
Alcohol and Other Drug Education Specialist position filled in Health and Wellness Education. Kevin Kareckas begins work on Tobacco education program.
AUGUST 10
Health and Wellness Education begins collaboration with the Office of Communications and Marketing to develop multi-tier campaign starting with tobacco education poster and flyer push
AUGUST 29
Tobacco 21 policy presentation to residential life student staff
SEPTEMBER 6
Mass email sent to all-students from Baishakhi Taylor
Poster and flyers published
SEPTEMBER 9
Health and Wellness Education begins meeting with Public Safety personnel to discuss policy language
SEPTEMBER 15
Kevin meets with SGA to discuss roll-out
OCTOBER 22
"Freshstart" advertised to students (tobacco cessation program)
NOVEMBER 15
Meeting with Public Safety and CRDs to discuss tobacco warnings issued
DECEMBER 1
Mock presentation for new tobacco educational intervention: "Tobacco Ed"
JTERM
Intentional marketing re-distribution for students coming back from abroad
SPRING SEMESTER
Tobacco enforcement leads to participation in "Tobacco Ed" for those found violating policy
SUMMER
Review of roll-out with stakeholders

COURTESY OF THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS EDUCATION OFFICE

Student investigated for policy violation at Language School

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a notice of possible violation of Middlebury Demonstrations and Protests Policy and Respectful Behavior Policy by Dean of the Language Schools Stephen Snyder. The notice, which is posted on Ben-Abba's Facebook page, alleges that Ben-Abba and the other student asked about "torture, Guantanamo, and toppling regimes" and that they "told their peers in the audience they should be ashamed for being present at the session." The notice also mentioned that a CIA recruiter "[w]as heckled," and that "one student took a photo of the signup sheet and was escorted outside where Mills Public Safety asked [the student] to delete the picture."

The night before his Arabic final exam, on Aug. 8, Ben-Abba crafted a response to Snyder, posted on his Facebook page, in which he denies the latter three accusations.

"Some of the students who complained to you may disagree with the tone or content of my questions, but that is not cause to discipline me. In fact, to police my speech by threat of disciplinary action contradicts with the very policy I am accused of violating, which clearly states that students are 'free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them,' both publicly and privately,'" Ben-Abba wrote, referencing Middlebury's Demonstrations and Protests Policy.

The next day, Ben-Abba heard from Snyder that he was found not responsible for violating college policy. While the news was a relief to Ben-Abba, he wrote in a Facebook post that he was also alarmed "that Middlebury [was] willing to charge at least one student with false allegations rather than address the issue at hand."

The damage to free speech, Ben-Abba wrote, was already done, potentially deterring students from voicing critical opinions in the future.

"I wish Middlebury took its own mission of ethical citizenship seriously," Ben-Abba said. "I wish it protected dissident students who are committed to this mission rather than rush to fulfill the demands of students who support and seek employment with US imperialism."

COURTESY PHOTO

Arabic, Korean, and Italian language schools are held at Mills College in Oakland, Calif.

According to Snyder, the CIA information session is not unique in language school programming.

"Employers come to campus every summer as well as during the academic year to hold information sessions about employment opportunities for Middlebury students," Snyder said. "The CIA came to campus as one of those employers."

In the aftermath of Ben-Abba's disciplinary notice, which was shared widely on social media among members of the Middlebury community, a coalition of current and former Middlebury Language School students and faculty wrote a petition entitled "To Middlebury Language Schools: End CIA Partnership," demanding that MLS not renew its partnership with the CIA and make a commitment not to collaborate with the CIA in the future.

The petition reads, "Despite [its] mission, MLS has welcomed the CIA into our community for decades, allowing the Agency to conduct recruitment and information sessions at its programs at Mills College in Oakland, California and Middlebury College in Vermont. The CIA's presence undermines the spirit of MLS, and we unequivocally condemn this partnership. In pursuing its mission of collecting intelligence and conducting covert action, the CIA has a known record of human rights abuses and international law violations."

The petition states that the long-standing relationship between the CIA and MLS implies an "institutional endorsement" of the organization. The petition also states that the CIA information session has been the only "career oriented event for MLS students," a claim that Snyder refuted in an email to The Campus.

According to Snyder, the CIA has conducted information sessions at Middlebury "off and on since the 1980s, at both the college and the Language Schools, and consistently for the last ten years."

"Middlebury's Center for Careers and Internships arranges multiple employment sessions for Language School students, as it does at the college during the academic year," Snyder said.

After language schools ended, several of the students who had attended the information session had a teleconference with Snyder on this subject.

"We had a meeting with students interested in pursuing this issue of helping the college end its relationship with the CIA," Ben-Abba said. "It seems like [Snyder] took us seriously, and as soon as possible he's going to talk to the provost and other deans about this issue and take it forward."

However, Snyder said he is not planning to make changes to CIA-related programming.

"We are not considering changing Language School's relationship with the CIA or any other current employer that abides by Middlebury's recruiting policies and procedures," Snyder said. "This would hold for the college as well."

For Ben-Abba, his disciplinary record having escaped unscathed, the whole incident is an example of the power of student activism.

"Because disciplinary action is fundamentally political and arbitrary, student activists should be as wildly creative and imaginative as possible in achieving their goals," Ben-Abba said. "Students have a lot of power and a lot of agency. And they can use that agency to make Middlebury a better place and to make the world a little bit better as well."

Bridge and Rail Project construction to continue through fall

By LUCY TOWNEND
Staff Writer

Construction on the Middlebury Bridge and Rail Project continued through the summer, with further work set to take place throughout the next year. The $71 million Bridge and Rail Project, overseen by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), will allow a passenger rail service to run from Rutland to Burlington via Middlebury for the first time since 1953. VTrans expects the project to be completed by 2021.

Despite heavy construction in and around Main Street, project administrators anticipate a positive impact with the return of a passenger rail.

"Not only will we keep our businesses, we will add to the benefits of new businesses coming in downtown once we get through to 2021," said Jim Gish, Middlebury's community liaison for the project.

Kubricky Construction and Maine Drilling and Blasting are currently in the process of replacing 3,500 feet of rail line running through downtown Middlebury, track that only freight trains have used in recent years. The new rail line will be continuously welded, resulting in faster and smoother transport for passenger rails; however, this process will require crews to strip the existing rail, excavate below it, and install new tracks. Due to the extent of this construction phase, Main Street and Merchants Row will be closed to all traffic for ten weeks next summer.

"Not only will we keep our businesses, we will add to the benefits of new businesses coming downtown."

COURTESY PHOTO
The extension of Triangle Park at the corner of Main St. and Merchant's Row is one of many above-ground renovations that will accompany the new passenger rail system through downtown Middlebury.

Upon project completion, the two temporary town bridges will be replaced with a tunnel, with the rail passing under a green space that will expand Triangle Park. This reclaimed space can be used for Middlebury town events, such as the farmer's market.

While many are excited for the convenience and opportunities that the passenger rail will offer, some merchants and community members are worried about the effects of a lengthy construction project.

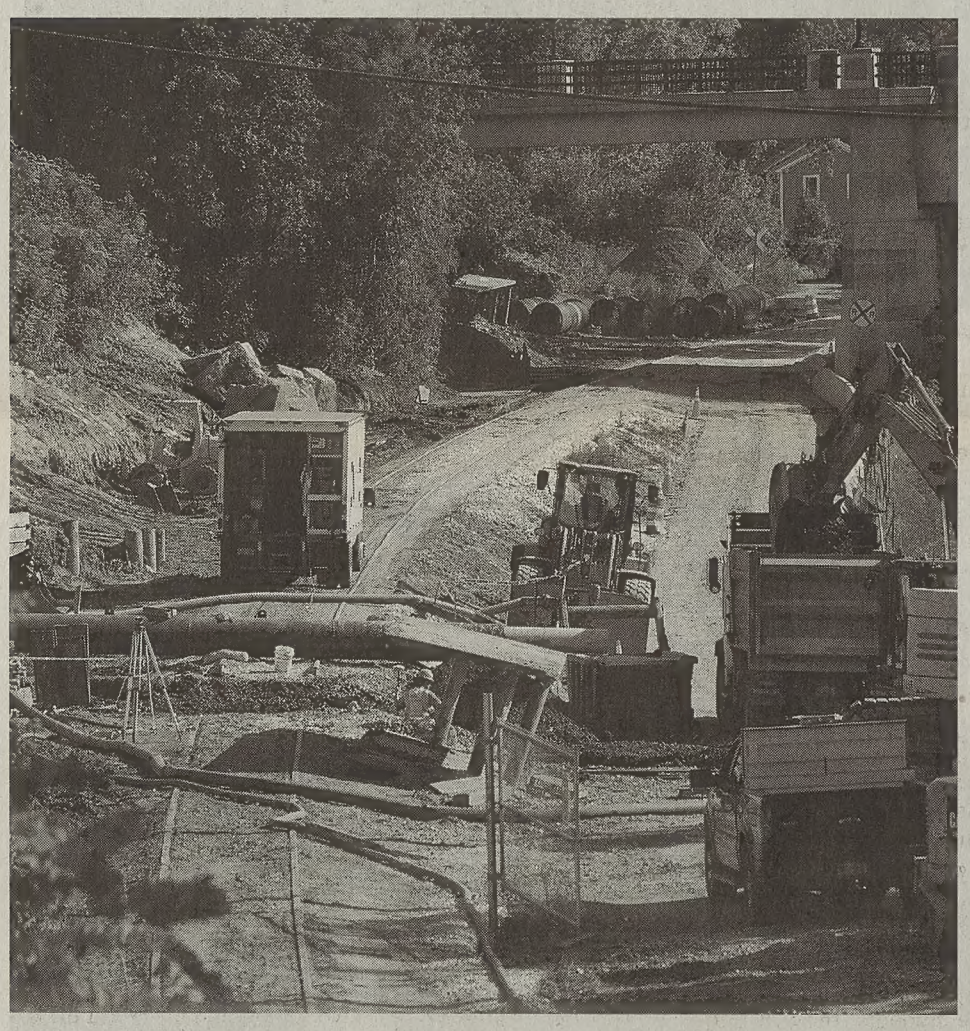
When asked about the disruption to businesses, Gish acknowledged the concerns of local residents.

"It's hard to characterize the entire community, but certainly the owners of the downtown businesses have been concerned about this project from day one," he said. Construction has limited parking and has the potential to impede local businesses further with road closures next summer.

To offer a counterbalance to the effects of construction, VTrans awarded the town of Middlebury a $230,000 grant. Part of this money is used for Bundle, a workshop and retail space that holds periodic events to highlight the talents of Middlebury and the advantage of a Main Street retail space. Bundle recently relocated to 51 Main St., with Buy Again Alley moving into Bundle's former space. Gish emphasized that the best way for students to help downtown Middlebury is to continue to shop at stores throughout the next few years. During the toughest part of construction next summer, there will be a special sale held throughout Middlebury every Wednesday to help facilitate patronage at downtown stores. These events are mainly organized by Neighbors Together, a community action group hoping to minimize the impact of construction in Middlebury. Better Middlebury Partnership is the fiscal agent behind this group.

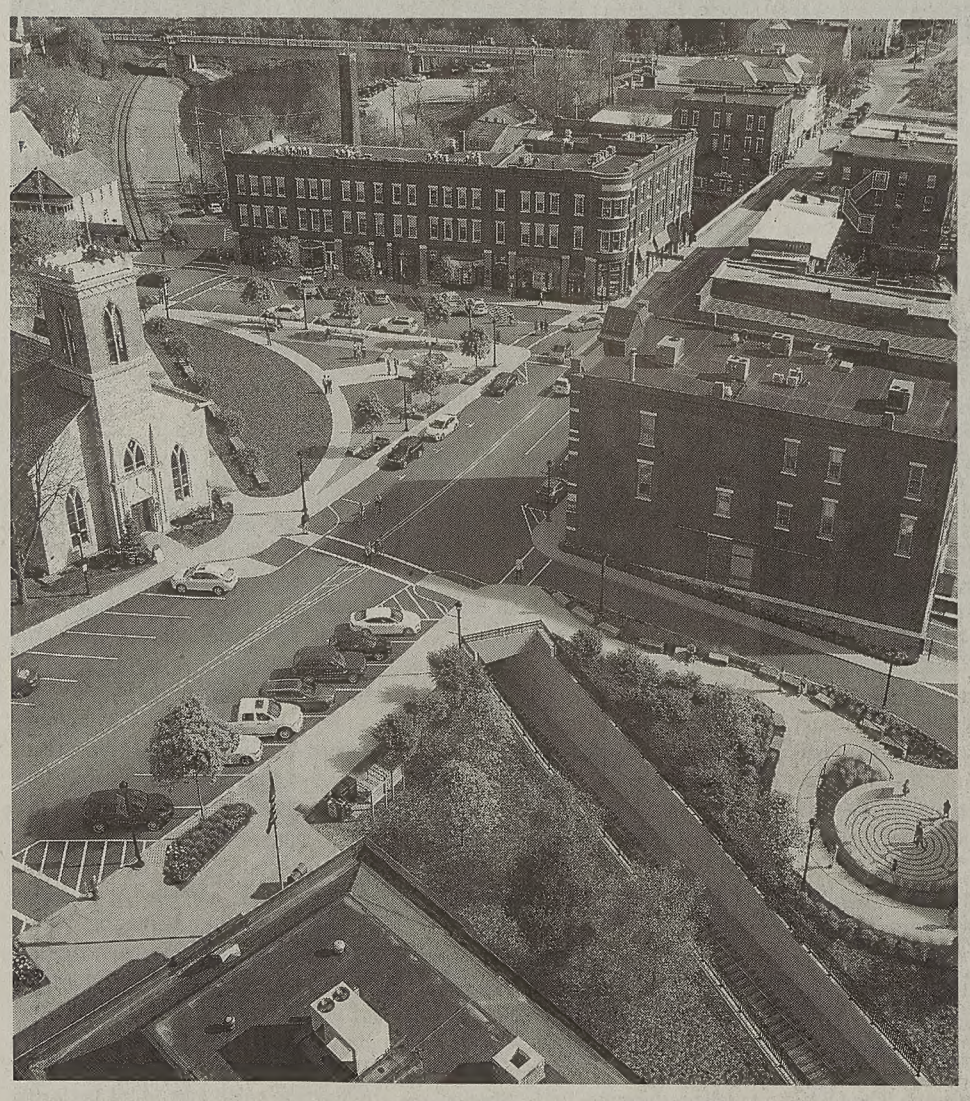
While the current construction can be tough for downtown businesses and residents, Gish remains optimistic. "Once we get through it, it's going to look beautiful downtown."

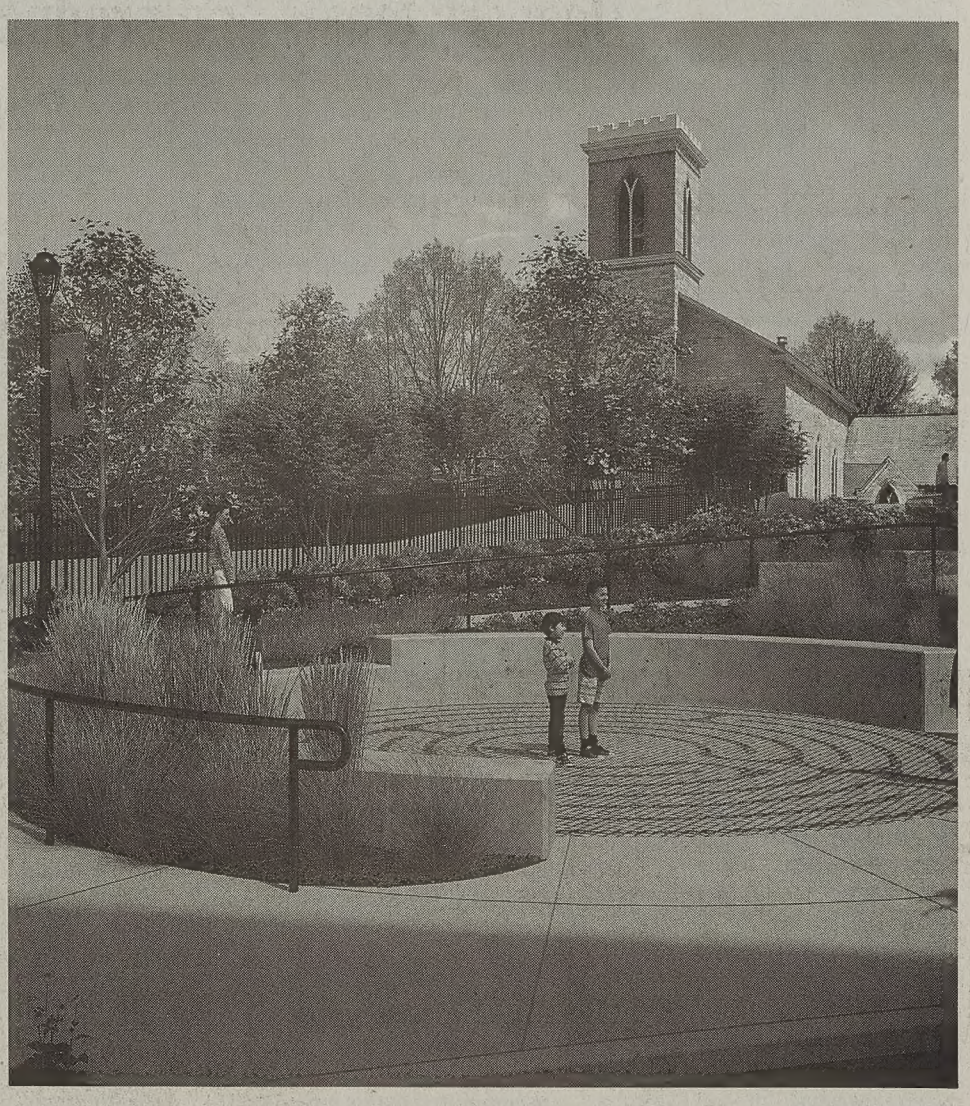
For project updates and construction schedules, visit www.vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/middlebury.



COURTESY PHOTOS
Kubricky Construction and Maine Drilling and Blasting are in charge of project construction. Efforts began in spring 2017 when VTrans called for the demolision of two bridges in Middlebury center due to failing strucutral integrity. In July 2017, the bridges were demolished and temporary wood bridges were constructed. When rail renovations speed up next summer, the temporary bridges will be dissasembled, and replaced by a more-fluid tunnel system underneath Merchant's Row.

Here's what downtown Middlebury will look like post-construction.





COURTESY PHOTOS
Artistic renderings by Lincoln Brown Illustration (including top photo) provide a glimpse of renovated pockets of Middlebury's town center that are currently masked by heavy construction.

Two Middlebury residents to receive 2019 Vermont Arts Award

Statewide honor awarded to two neighbors

By MICHAEL FRANK
Contributing Writer

Middlebury residents François Clemmons and Douglas Anderson will each receive a 2019 Vermont Arts Award from the Montpelier-based Vermont Arts Council. Both Clemmons and Anderson have been active in furthering the arts in the Middlebury community for more than two decades.

Clemmons will receive the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, announced originally by Governor Phil Scott on Sept. 6, 2019. In a Press Release from Scott's office, he said, "I am pleased to name François as the winner of this year's Excellence in the Arts award. His renowned musical talent and years of service to his community made him the perfect choice. Congratulations, François, and thank you for making Vermont proud."

Clemmons served as the Alexander Twilight Artist-in-Residence and director of the Martin Luther King Spiritual Choir at Middlebury College from 1997 until his retirement in 2013. He is well known for his 25-year career portraying the role of Officer Clemmons on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" and for his work as a Grammy Award-winning opera singer.

As an Artist-in-Residence at Middlebury College, Clemmons left a mark as a professor, community leader and mentor who interacted thoughtfully with students and other members of the college community.

"I would tell my students, 'I want to know what you think'," Clemmons said. "My goal up here was personhood. I was benefiting, and they were benefiting. It's more than an artist in residence, it's more than a music teacher, it's how we as a society and as a race have to be together with one another."

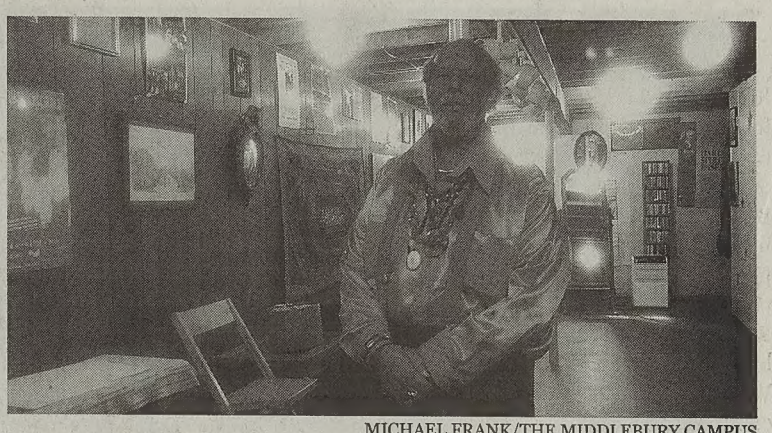
In addition to Clemmons, Anderson will receive the Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts. Anderson is the current Artistic Director of the Town Hall Theater, Inc. in Middlebury. His previous directing projects include all Opera Company of Middlebury productions since 2004, as well as Middlebury College productions of "Cabaret" and "Sunday in the Park with George."

After moving to Middlebury in 1993, Anderson undertook the project of restoring the Middlebury Town Hall Theater. Built in 1883, the community's theater had fallen into a state of disrepair, leaving room for a new hub of performing arts. After a ten-year rebuilding process, the theater reopened in 2008 and has been the home of several hundred events since. Anderson also founded the Opera Company of Middlebury in 2004.

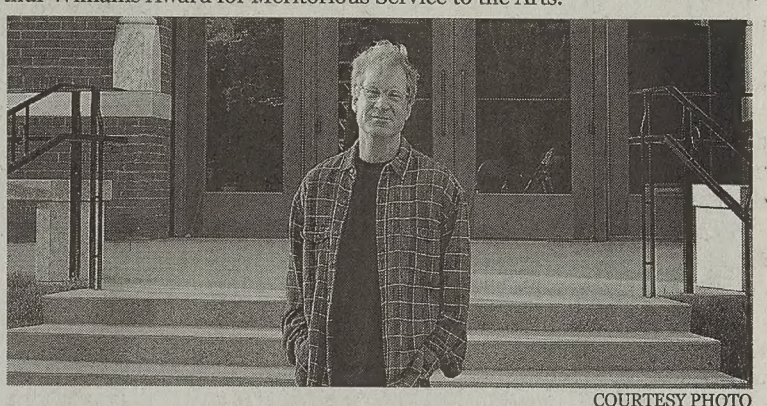
Clemmons and Anderson have both been prominent artistic contributors to the town of Middlebury and Middlebury College. President Laurie Patton commended the two Middlebury artists' work in the community.

"Through song and theater, François and Doug have brought to the Middlebury community much more than the beauty of art and performance," Patton told the Rutland Herald on Sept. 14. "They've also shown us how emotionally powerful shared experiences can be."

On Oct. 23, The Vermont Arts Council will hold a ceremony for the recipients at the Mahaney Arts Center.



MICHAEL FRANK/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS



François Clemmons (above) will receive the Govenor's Award for Excellence in the Arts next month at the Vermont Arts Council Ceremony on Middlebury's campus. Douglas Anderson (below) will concurrently receive the Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts.

COURTESY PHOTO

Middlebury Foods says chow, delivers last boxes

Continued from Page 1

space, and buying the food itself.

Even with such low operating costs, the organization began to struggle to meet the needs of customers. This was not always the case. In March 2016, Middlebury Foods was featured in a Vermont Public Radio story that created a boom in orders from Middlebury residents.

Charlie Mitchell '18, a current Middlebury Foods board member, was working with the organization at the time of the VPR piece. Following the 2016 VPR story, Mitchell said, the number of families buying Midd Foods orders ballooned to almost 300, from the 80 families who were placing orders when Mitchell started volunteering.

"We expanded our offerings beyond vegetables and meat to more of a full grocery service," he said. "We started selling bread and pasta and cheese, a lot of it from local suppliers."

While this growth in interest helped promote Middlebury Foods' goal of providing locally sourced foods at a lower cost, Mitchell said that orders began to decrease slowly following their 2016 spike. Bea Lee '20.5, a finance manager and one of Middlebury Foods' 2019 summer managers, said that as orders fell, it became harder to sustain their delivery model, which relies on wholesale purchasing.

"The idea is to buy wholesale food or local products that we are able to resell close to the wholesale price," she said. "That system works well as long as you know you can order in these wholesale block quantities."

Lee explained that as fewer people placed orders, it became harder to meet the exact needs of customer orders while purchasing units of wholesale products. As orders dwindled, bulk ordering made less financial sense.

Lee said that ultimately, it didn't make sense to continue the delivery service.

"The fewer orders we had per month, the less sense it made for us to continue purchasing in this manner of wholesale," she said. "That made us think and pause and reevaluate the model that we were using."

Lee, Mitchell and Matthew Sjogren '20, an operations manager who worked alongside Lee this past summer as the other summer manager, all realized that the effort going into deliveries could be put elsewhere. Beyond being a retail operation for food delivery, Sjorgren said, Middlebury Foods presents an "alternative vision" for what a food system can look like.

"That vision, I think, is to connect people who are doing awesome agricultural work and to find a way to make that work more accessible to people who might not otherwise be a part of that system," Sjorgren said.

"It became more to juggle than we could handle."

Sjogren credited much of the success of Middlebury Foods to Mitchell, and said that the organization has lost the intensity introduced by the former general manager and board member.

For Mitchell, the decision to stop deliveries had to do more with the goals of the organization. He saw Middlebury Foods as an "anti-hunger organization" dedicated to alleviating food insecurity in Addison County, with Middlebury Foods' wholesale buying, limited markups and volunteer work as the model for achieving that goal.

"It just turned out that the benefit was relatively marginal," Mitchell said.

In addition, Mitchell said that the deliveries did not necessarily serve those experiencing food insecurity, as would be the aim of a traditional food bank.

"When we could take SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps), the use of SNAP among our customers was about proportional to the enrollment in our community," he said.

Mitchell added that SNAP is not a reliable benchmark of food insecurity because many households that could benefit from the program might not be enrolled. He cited personal financial considerations and timing as reasons why some might not use Middlebury Foods.

Mitchell said that Middlebury Foods' goals extended beyond addressing food insecurity. Rather, he saw it as an organization focused on creating a community around a better food system and provide food at low cost in the process.

Coupled with the high turnover rate of college students, the nonprofit, wholesale model under which Middlebury Foods operated became hard to sustain.

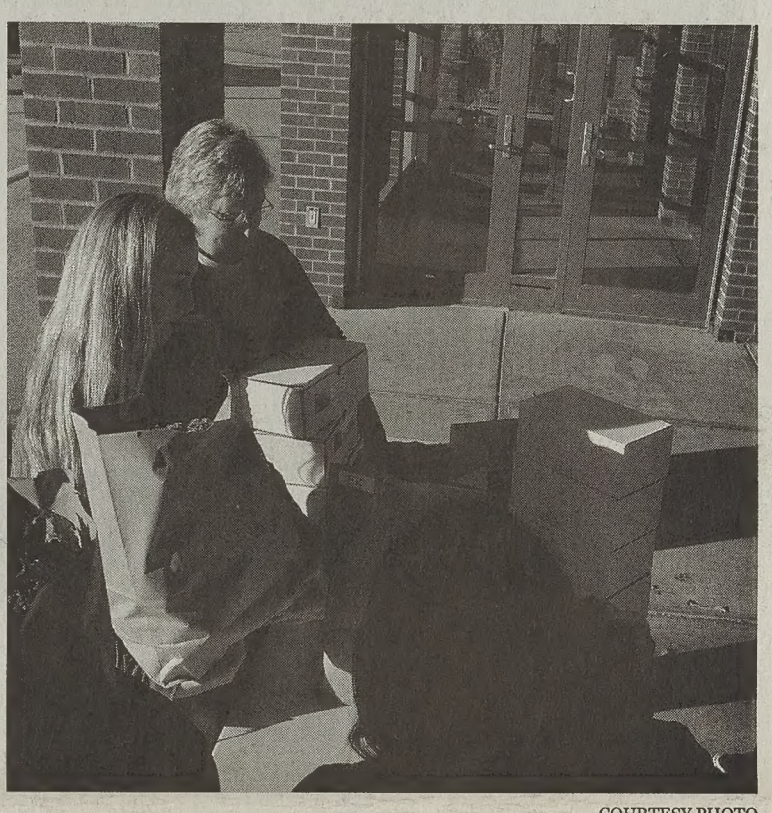
"It became more to juggle than we could handle," Mitchell said. Many college organizations — including Middlebury Foods — struggle with leadership turnover and management changes, he said.

Peters estimated that between 50 and 60 customers placed orders for the final delivery. Though the organization won't continue as a 501(c)(3), Peters hopes that Middlebury Foods buyers and student volunteers alike will seek to involve themselves in conversations about food systems and access in different, more effective ways.

"I think most of the people who bought from us [did so] because of the interaction with the students and interaction with the community," she said. "I hope that we continue that in some other form, but it just doesn't really make sense to operate as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit."

Sjogren agreed that Middlebury Foods, though finished with deliveries, will continue to exist as an organization interacting with the local food system. After having conducted its final deliveries, the organization will donate its remaining financial assets to HOPE and John Graham Shelter.

"The physical retail operation is gone," Sjogren said, "but I think that a broader vision very much remains and that the ethos of finding innovative ways to change the food system for the better is still there."



COURTESY PHOTO

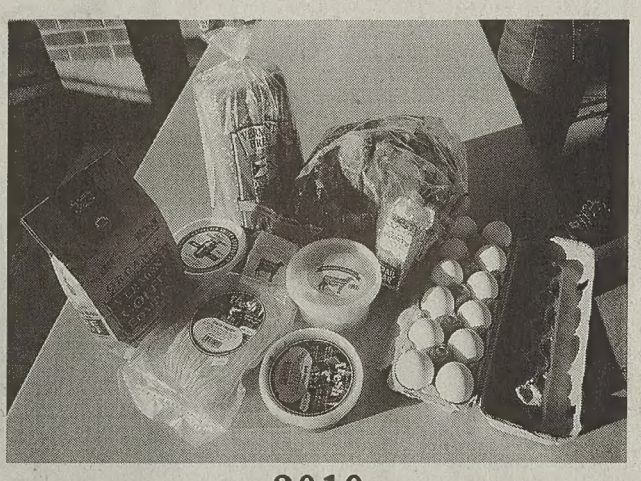
Middlebury Foods customers were able to pick up delivered groceries at one of six offered locations across Addison County.

Delivery teams and produce hauls: through the years

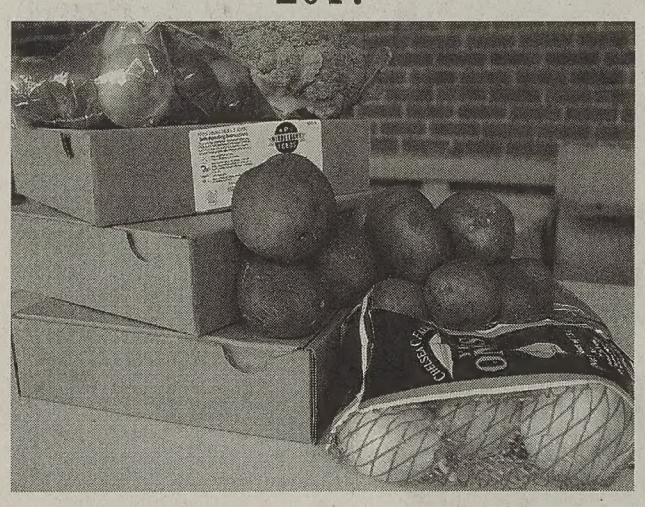
For six years, Middlebury Foods provided Addison County towns with a local and affordable food option. Let's take a look.

2015

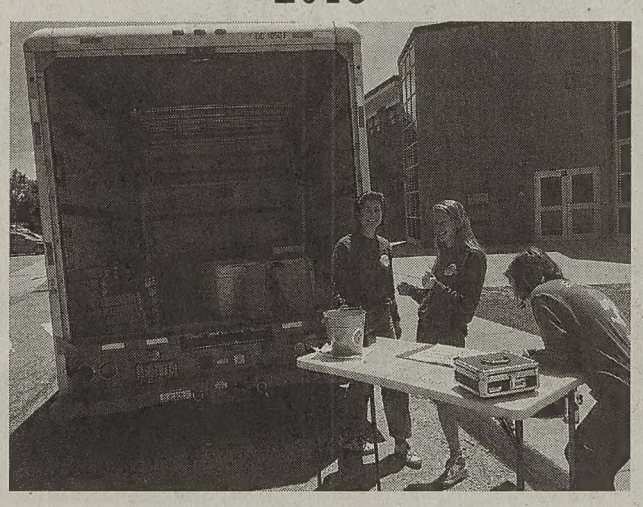
2016



2017



2018



2019

COURTESY PHOTOS AND BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Wonderful day in the neighborhood

Woofstock and TAM Trek highlight active fall weekend in the community

BENJY RENTON AND ERICA BISAILLON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

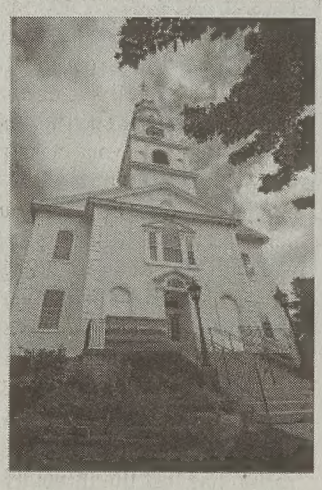
MIDD KIDS WELCOME HERE !

The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC is an open and affirming, multi-generational community of believers and seekers.

We are diverse in our convictions and united in our commitment to Christian love and service.

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

MIDDUCC



YOU'RE INVITED...
to a **Brunchy Lunch** for college students
September 29th at 11:30 a.m. at church
RSVP office@midducc.org

Sunday Worship Services -
10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary **4:00 p.m. in Unity Hall**

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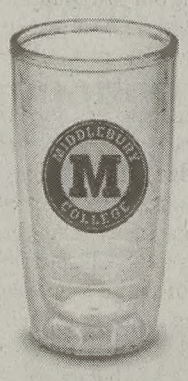


www.MiddleburyShop.com

SARAH FAGAN

The confusing social contract of the DFMO

By SEX PANTHER

For those of you who are not familiar, DFMO stands for "Dance Floor Make-Out"— which, whether we like it or not, is a time-honored tradition at Middlebury College. On Sunday mornings, DFMOs form a classic, confusing topic of discussion at tables in Proctor or Ross. The perplexing nature of the DFMO lies in both the complicated set of circumstances which lead to two often very sweaty people swapping saliva; the particular nature of the DFMO; and the DFMO's implications, or aftermath.

By nature, DFMOs vary. Variations hinge on whether or not the making out was limited to the dance floor; whether or not both parties parted ways immediately afterwards; if the making out (and possibly more!) continued in one of the two parties' dorm rooms; if numbers were exchanged; and, lastly, whether there continues to be mutual interest in making out, whether it be on dance floors, in dorm rooms or even on Battell Beach (not a bad option, if you don't mind the mosquitos).

Arguably, the most confusing part of the DFMO is what turns the singular DMFO into the plural. During the course of my research, it became clear to me that the quality DFMO itself is not what guarantees that fateful next-morning-text, or else the inevitable — and interminable — awkward encounters in line at the dining hall. Instead, it is the circumstances surrounding the DFMO which have the potential to keep it to a single, one-time thing, or else bring about future, plural DFMOs. My in-depth research has indicated that there are three distinct categories of DFMO in particular: the random DFMO, the blind DFMO and the icky DFMO.

The random DFMO is, of course, completely random. There is generally a complete lack of expectations from either party about a shared future and so, as a result, this particular form of the DFMO rarely leads to relationships ... unless the random makeout session becomes a pattern, and names and are eventually exchanged. (Or if the pair happens to meet somewhere civilized, like the library, and decide they like each other's faces in daylight or voices when they aren't screaming over the thumping bass of "Mr. Brightside").

The blind DFMO is one in which both parties simply need a forum to hook up — one that isn't a formal "date." Middlebury isn't exactly a place where people get asked out on dates without casually hooking up over the course of a semester and then forcefully asking themselves almost a year later, "wait, uh ... are we dating?" This kind of DFMO, in which both parties have expressed a prior interest and the Atwater dance floor simply acts as a social lubricant, seems to be the most successful model for creating a relationship. The essential nature of both the random and blind DFMO is that they should be fun, flirty, and (so long as the DFMO is not premeditated) all expectations ought to be left behind, like PBR cans on the sticky Atwater floor.

Now that I've defined what the DFMO should be, it is easier to talk about what it *shouldn't* be. Above all else, the DFMO should not be something born out of intimidation or obligation. We have all probably seen — or, for many of us, experienced — a situation that felt or looked wrong. I can remember one of my first DFMO experiences freshman year and the subsequent "dish" session that occurred in Ross the next morning. What happened is not that important; what is important is that I was left feeling unsettled and uneasy about what had transpired. For one thing, my understanding going into the DFMO was completely different than his. I had not yet learned the expressive tools to communicate what I wanted, and waking up the next morning, I knew I had gone further with the DFMO than I wanted to. I didn't even get a text the next day. This is a prime example of the icky DFMO; "icky," because that is the most accurate way to describe how I felt about myself and my body the next day. As in my experience, the icky DFMO is bred from unequal expectations, high levels of intoxication and imbalances in power (with "power" usually meaning social capital).

My advice to you, Middlebury students, is to know what you want, to set your boundaries and understand that the DFMO is definitely not the only way to find love or connection here at this confusing institution. First and foremost, please know that you don't need to do anything that you are not comfortable with, whether it be a DFMO or beyond. I hope that now, as certified DFMO experts, primed and ready to identify the best possible set-up for a successful DFMO, your Sunday morning conversations will not be cause for ickiness or alarm, but for fun and sex-positivity.

Ask Tré: Welcome back, let's jump in

By TRÉ STEPHENS

Dear Tre,

I just failed an exam, what do I do?

Anonymous reader

Dear Reader,

Exams are difficult. There is no way around it. Exams at Middlebury can be exceptionally onerous. For what reason, I'm not sure. Maybe our professors think they are challenging us intellectually, but really they are just making our lives harder than they have to be.

Failing an exam in college to some can look like the end of the world, but trust me, it does get better. Think of failing an exam as one of those things that you have to go through. I'm telling you this because I don't want you to stress yourself out (like most students do here). Exams are like the seasons: they come and they conquer, and then they pass.

Now, what should you do if you do happen to take an "L" on an exam? Well, there are a few ways to handle these situations. You could cry, scream and curse out your professors, but we all know that wouldn't be helpful. What you first need to do is accept the fact that you didn't win this one. Ask yourself, what could you have done to prepare better for this exam? Oftentimes we tell ourselves that we did everything we could, but that isn't always true. Maybe next time don't hang out with friends, or binge-watch GOT so you can catch up (these are just a few examples among a giant list of distracting activities we might find ourselves doing instead of studying).

The next step is to go and talk to your professor directly. Professors have office hours for a reason. Go look over your exam together, and make sure to ask questions along the way. You can also go a step further and communicate what your specific needs are when taking exams. Never forget that this institution works for you and with you.

Last but not least, if you fail an exam, let it go and try again. As I mentioned, exams are hard, but they are not the end all and be all. Next time, prepare more. Ask for help, go to office hours and make sure you are taking time for yourself.

The first time I failed an exam here at Middlebury, I didn't know what to do with myself. Then, I looked in the mirror and realized that nothing in college is supposed to be easy. Yes, it's stressful. Sometimes we fail, but we still deserve to be here. My advice to you is to take a deep breathe and remember that it's ok. A failure today doesn't mean a failure tomorrow.

Love,
Tré

Author's note:

WELCOME BACK!

I hope everyone had an amazing summer break. Even more amazing, "Ask Tré" is back by popular demand. You already know the deal, and if you don't, here is the run down.

"Ask Tré" is a column written by me, Tré Stephens. In this column, I respond to questions and messages people send to me via submission on the "Ask Tré" form (go/asktre). We back at it again, and I am ready for what the new year has in store.

Look for the latest issue of "Ask Tré" in your Campus paper, and don't forget to send in a question to the go link. See y'all on the flip side!

Some wisdom for beginning college

By THE SCOTT CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

Authors' note: Arthur Martin's article in the August 13 issue of the campus, "A call to action: Middlebury, it's time to prioritize our mental healthcare," caught the attention of the Scott Center staff, and we are grateful to him for writing such an honest accounting of his experience at Middlebury. As the new school year opens, we wanted to affirm his messages on his experience and about seeking out people on campus for listening and support.

Dear Middlebury students,

You do not have to have things figured out. Let me say that one more time: You do not have to have things figured out. In fact, college is the best time to bask in the unknowing. Your 18 years of experience is being radically challenged with every person you encounter, every academic article you read, every new relationship or breakup, and every destination you visit. You will encounter paradigm shifts that may rattle you, or you may encounter things that will intensify deeply-held parts of you. Either way, you are transforming: molting, budding and blooming.

There will be inevitable growing pains. This process of growth can look messy at times. And that is okay — it is supposed to happen. That is why one of the best things you can do for yourself is to not only understand these growing pains but hold space for them. The more you can do that, the more you can find the eye in the storm of these next four years.

"Have patience with everything that remains unsolved in your heart. Try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books written in a foreign language. Do not now look for the answers. They cannot now be given to you because you could not live them. It is a question of experiencing everything. At present you need to live the question. Perhaps you will gradually, without even noticing it, find yourself experiencing the answer, some distant day."

— Rainer Maria Rilke

There are countless ways to hold space for the growth and the messiness of the "unknowing" that you will experience. Experiment with tried and true methods of mindfulness and renewal such as meditation, journaling, a yoga class, prayer or just time in nature. Pick something that works best for you, and make it as much a priority as turning in an assignment or attending team practice. Hold tight to it. This, when done right, will not be at the expense of your academic life, but rather that will make you a better student, professional, friend and person.

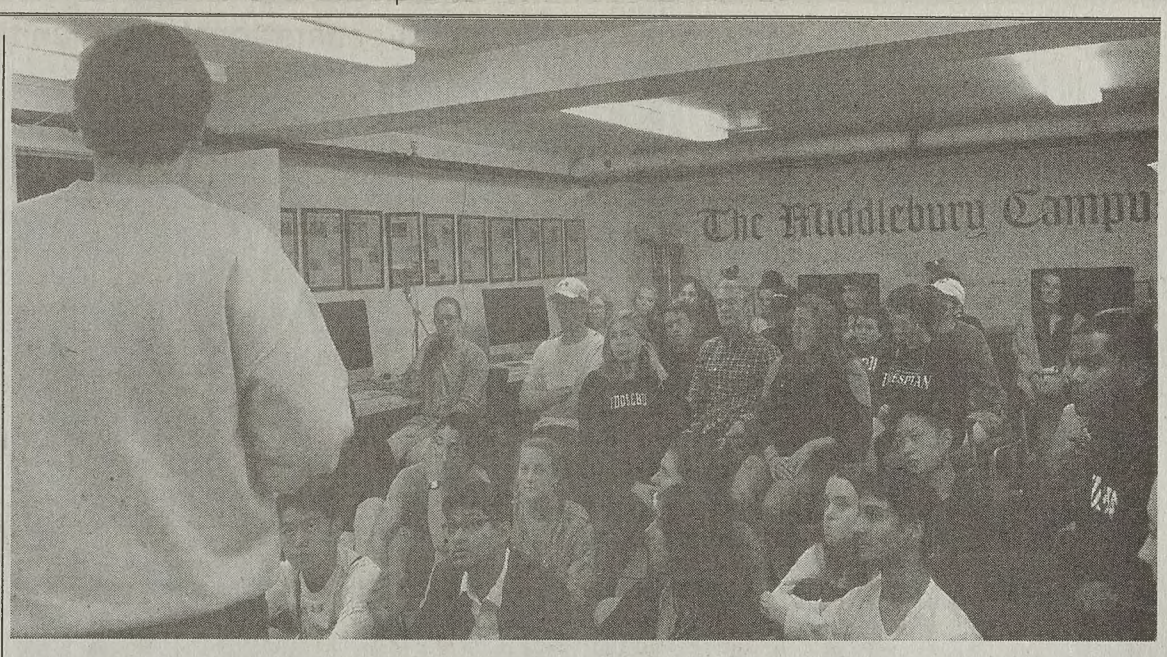
Schedule times of the week when you are away from your phone, computer and other distractions to be present with yourself. Go inward and check in deeply. When you are not doing well, know that there are resources on campus that are here for you. Too often, we hear students say they wished they had spoken to a counselor, chaplain or mentor when things were difficult, but felt they had no time. In reality, we make time for things that we think are important. Understand that your well-being is just as much a priority for you as your academic achievement. Reaching out to a counselor or chaplain will never be an inconvenience!

Knowledge is multidimensional and involves the whole person. It is not enough to ask for grades, performance and a great career. True knowledge and success incorporates your passions, your dreams, your personality, and your wisdom as much as a skill set or being book smart. Invest in your whole self in these next few years, and have certainty that the return on that investment will be a wiser, better and truer you.

May you befriend the deafening unknown and ride the adventures ahead of you!

Sincerely,
Your Friends at The Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life

The Scott Center promotes religious programs and fosters an atmosphere of personal warmth and community on Middlebury's campus.



The Middlebury Campus

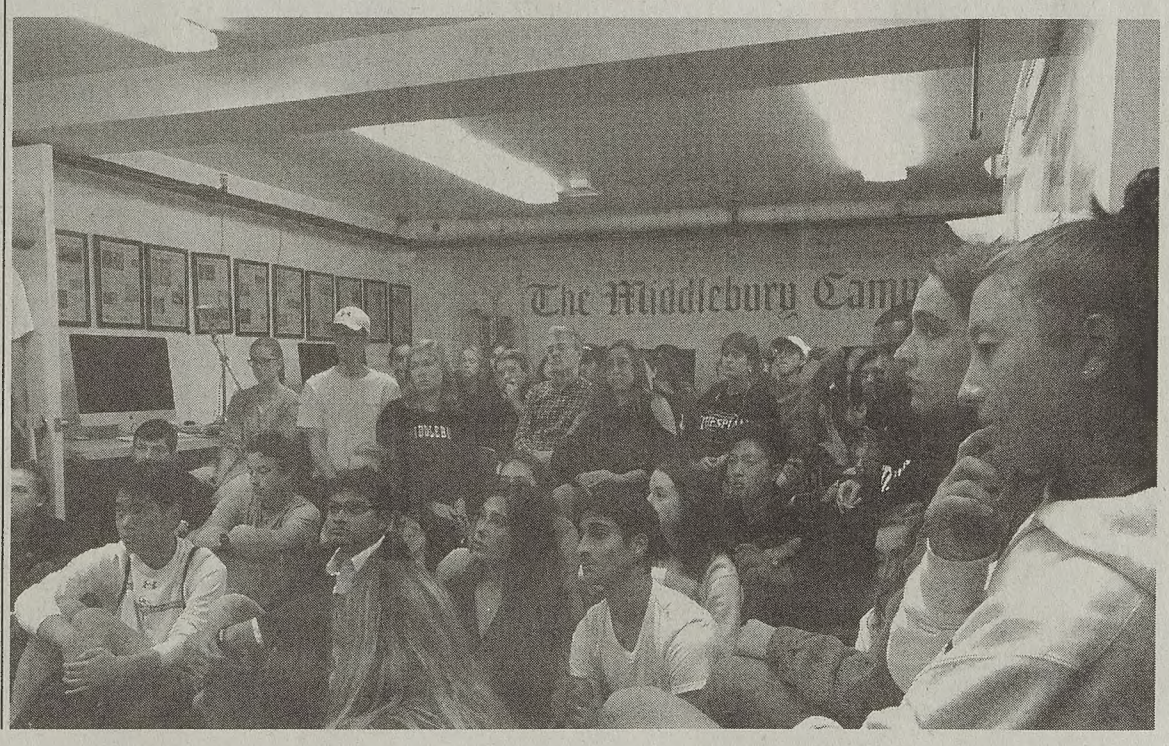
Interest meeting

Thursday, Sept. 19 at 9 p.m. in Hepburn basement

We're looking for new writers, photographers, illustrators, design editors, copy editors and audio/video-savvy folks to join our team. Come meet our staff and ask your burning questions about Middlebury's only student-run newspaper!

For those interested in data reporting, there will be a meeting with our data editor at 8 p.m.

Email campus@middlebury.edu with questions or concerns.



THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

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An ode to orgs: new (and old) students, get involved!

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Imagine: You are a prospective student wandering the campus late last Thursday afternoon. Having marveled at the sheer scale of the Ross complex, peeked in through the narrow windows of Atwater dining hall and pestered your parents into buying you your first white-and-navy Varsity sweatshirt (as well as, of course, one for your younger sibling), you arrive at Chapel quad.

What you find there leaves an impression more vivid than any admissions pamphlet ever could.

There, long rows of tables extend out from McCullough Student Center, plastered with brightly-colored signs spelling out the names of different student organizations, covered in free candy. These tables stay in place for two hours, tittering in the mid-September wind as droves of socially-conscious freshmen straggle by. Every so often, one brave individual in Birkenstocks stops to talk to an upperclassman on the other side of the table, copying their email onto a sign-up sheet and snag a mini Snickers bar. Whatever you thought you knew about Middlebury College before, you will likely leave having made the following conclusion: To become a Middlebury student is to become involved.

As last Thursday's Student Activities Fair illustrated, club culture is front and center at Middlebury. Back in high school, clubs were often fodder for our college applications, distilled to one-liners on our resumes or a singular talking point during an alumni interview. Here, they mean so much more. Let us explain.

For the first time in a long time, first years are given a moment to pause and reconsider their previous commitments and future aspirations. A number of us on the editorial board reflected on the many motivations for joining clubs in high school — fleshing out your Common App, for instance, or acquiescing to overbearing parents who are eager to fulfill their vicarious varsity football fantasies.

One editor vividly characterized her own arrival at college as a kind of "self-shedding:" gone were any perceived obligations to play the violin (as, at that point, she had for some 12 years) or dance ballet. Instead, she was free to follow her own, more up-to-date instincts and interests. To that end, we encourage you, first-years, to reflect on your own passions, and let current curiosities guide your extracurricular exploration. Do not be dissuaded by self-doubt, or any perceived lack of experience. One editor remembers starting out at The Campus by writing a regular film column — without "any knowledge about anything related to film whatsoever." ("It worked out, didn't it?" she laughed. A true case of "fake it 'till you make it.")

Sophomores and juniors, conversations about joining clubs hold equal importance for you. Often, organizations form the crux of students' social lives at Middlebury. One member of the editorial board, for instance, joined club tennis during her sophomore year. She said that, for her, "the importance of the actual tennis component was secondary." She averred that the club could be about origami or roller-blading, but that at its core what was important to her was the continuity and security that comes from knowing a group of people for over two years.

The social benefits of being involved assume even greater importance in light of recent on-campus conversations about mental health. In an op-ed published over the summer, Arthur Martins '22.5 alluded to the unique potential for isolation on a secluded college campus like Middlebury, or the often devastating burden that comes from trying to "figure out how to make sense of our experiences alone." As many students know, this isolation assumes physical as well as emotional forms. In a place which regularly demands hours and hours of solitary studying — be it in dimly-lit thesis carrels among the furthest reaches of the Davis Upper Mezzanine or couches hidden on the fifth floor of BiHall — Middlebury students spend unavoidable amounts of time alone with their thoughts and textbooks.

Alternatively, participation in student orgs is an easy and effective way to engage with other people. For some, participating in an a capella group or improv troupe might be merely something different to do on a Tuesday night. But for others, when the sun begins to set around 4:15 p.m. and students find themselves sagging beneath an all-too-familiar February melancholy, an opportunity to leave the GIS lab and enter a vibrant room full of their peers forms nothing short of a lifeline. Many clubs, like Model UN and frisbee, even go so far as to eat dinner together. Aw!

Juniors abroad: ¡Escuchen! Vous pouvez rejoindre des clubs partout dans le monde. One member of the editorial board reflects that, had it not been for the "uniquely un-athletic" context of Oxford University, she would never have considered joining a women's soccer team. Only among the "panting and pasty British" — her team's goalkeeper, for instance, regularly smoked to relax while the opposing team took penalty shots — did she discover her own, somewhat athletic stride. Another editor identifies her choir as the "most valuable part" of her five months in Argentina.

And despite what you've heard, seniors, upperclassmen may even benefit the most from extracurricular activities. For instance, one board member talked about how various clubs helped him narrow down his career goals. We don't have consulting or law classes, but we do have Middlebury Consulting Group and Middlebury Law. Take it from us: meeting late-night deadlines in The Campus office feels as real-life as it gets.

The benefits of getting involved at Middlebury extend well beyond freshman year. Even at a basic level, extracurriculars give students a chance to excel outside of Twilight seminar rooms; at an institution that places so much stress on academic achievement, this can provide a crucial well of confidence and identity for many members of the community.

If that doesn't convince you, take it from the editor who pointed out that the stakes are "fairly freakin' low". If the walk to the ceramics studio turns out to be too long on a weeknight, or you stop attending Quidditch practices once it begins to get colder, do not fret. There will be another semester, and a fresh set of sign-up sheets to go with it.

Photos from student activities fair by Shirley Mao and Benjy Renton for The Campus.

"Haunted Bauhaus"

They were here and they were queer

By JACK CAREW
Contributing Writer

Minimalism, exposed elements, utility — the Bauhaus may not suffer from lack of fame or name recognition, but how much do we know about the people behind the movement?

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, Dr. Elizabeth Otto, Professor of Art History and Visual Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo, presented excerpts from her forthcoming book, "Haunted Bauhaus: Occult, Spirituality, Queer Identities, and Radical Politics," to a packed classroom on the ground floor of the Mahaney Arts Center. After a brief introduction by Erin Sassin, assistant professor of History of Art & Architecture, Otto began her lecture, titled "Queer Bauhaus," with a background of the influential art school and the period during which it existed, the Germany's Weimar Republic (1919–1933).

THE MIT PRESS

COURTESY PHOTO
Elizabeth Otto

Otto described how the school was committed to the free expression of ideas despite the constraints of German society at the time. The Bauhaus made the bold decision to close itself rather than to cave in the face of Nazi demands to create propaganda for their party. Despite closing its physical doors, the ideas and techniques of the Bauhaus continued to spread throughout the world, inspiring a generation of painters, sculptors, craftspeople, architects and other artists.

Before beginning her queering of the Bauhaus, Otto mentioned that the Bauhaus was unique because it was one of the first schools to encourage students to "do their own thing" instead of emulating the masters. Otto is working to reintegrate women — who comprised 38% of the membership of the Bauhaus — and queer people into the memory of the institution.

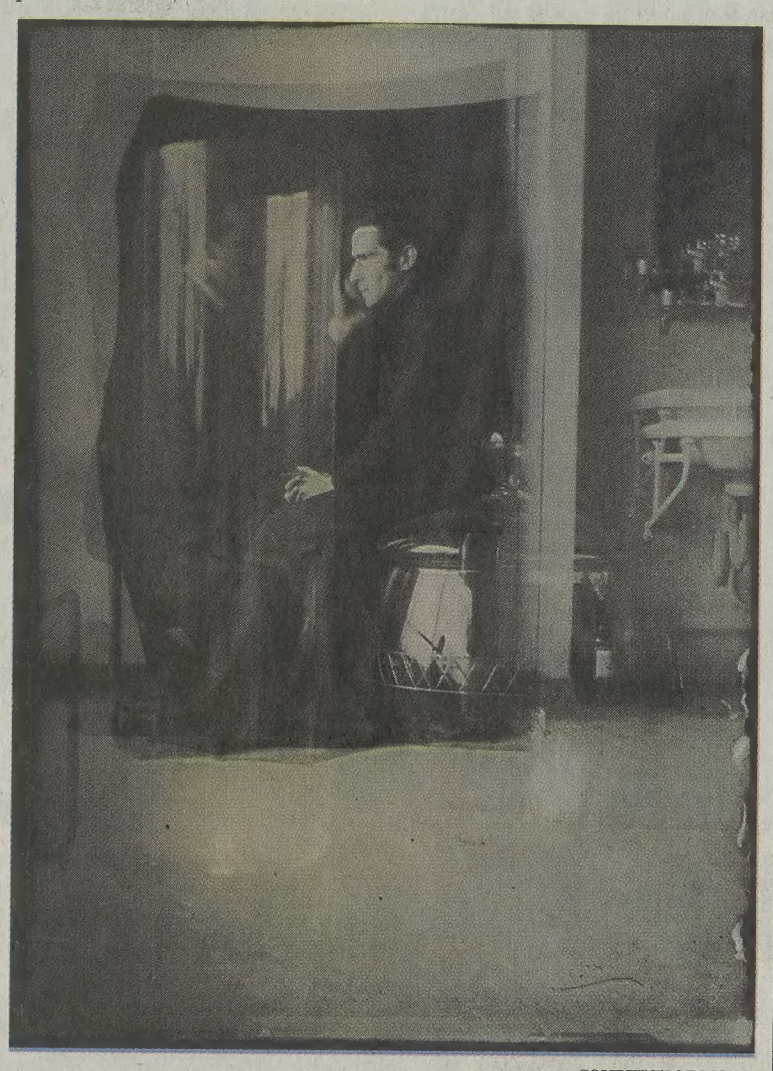
Despite occurring during the first week of the fall semester, participants far exceeded the capacity of the classroom in which the lecture took place. Cara Levine '20 said, "This lecture expanded my understanding of the Bauhaus in terms of its artistic reach as well as its philosophical vision. It brought queerness, something important to me, to a movement I have always adored."

Otto then displayed several photographs from the Bauhaus that displayed what she deemed a "queer sensibility." One of these, "Doppelportrait Heinz Loew und Hermann Trinkaus im Atelier" (Double Portrait of Heinz Loew and Hermann Trinkaus in the Studio), depicted two men dressed in loose black suits, facing each other. One man has placed his hand on the cheek of the other and appears behind a translucent glass cylinder that completely covers his body.

Quoting the oft-repeated statement from the sodomy and gross indecency trial of Oscar Wilde, Otto said that the men of the portrait are "haunted by the love that dare that speak its name." The men don dark apparel in front of a dark background, resulting in ambiguous silhouettes, thus allowing for plausible deniability of the relationship between the two men.

After taking the audience members through several other Bauhaus works and analyzing their queer representations, Otto concluded her lecture by discussing the significance and limitations of her research. Specifically, Otto pointed out that queer individuals had been erased from the history of the Bauhaus, and she is working to reincorporate their lives and memories into the public memory of the school. While LGBTQ+ members of the Bauhaus took significant risks to express their identities due to homosexuality's illegal status in the Weimar Republic, they are not present in survey textbooks nor in blockbuster exhibitions. Otto's personal challenges to completing this project include the ongoing restoration of the Bauhaus Museum in Dessau, especially as many research materials are in storage and inaccessible.

The Bauhaus served as a beacon for queer people around the world. It was a place where individuals were encouraged to express themselves and live freely. With continuing research into the influences that queer people had on the Bauhaus and the Modernist movement, these revolutionary artists' stories are finally being told.

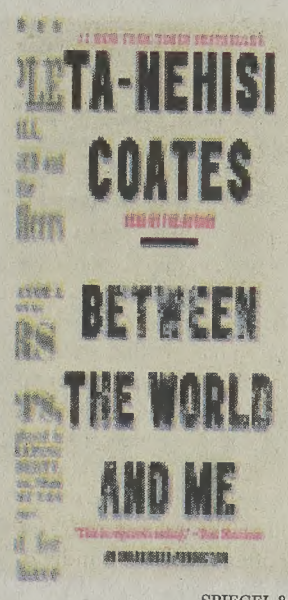


COURTESY OF MOMA
"Doppelportrait Heinz Loew und Hermann Trinkaus im Atelier" is a double-exposed photograph that layers two photos in one, resulting in what is sometimes called a "ghost photograph."

The librarian is in

By KATRINA SPENCER
Guest Columnist

Katrina Spencer is a Literatures & Culture Librarian in the Davis Family Library.



SPIEGEL & GRAU

Brilliant. Having the opportunity to listen to it read by the author on the very first days of 2019's Black History Month was a special and meaningful treat. Published to mass acclaim, author Ta-Nehisi Coates — and Middlebury College French Language Schools alum — writes a letter to his son, Samori, that is a testimony and a word of caution to a young black boy growing up in a society — ours — which is regularly hostile to Blacks. Coates spends time detailing how the culture surrounding his youth in Baltimore forced him to adopt an ill-fitting code of conduct that engaged violence and mandated that he navigate his city blocks with a hypervigilance that would protect his body. He also describes his time at Howard University, calling it a "Mecca," as it welcomed, oriented, fed and sustained college students from every corner of the worldwide black diaspora. This "epistle," in many ways, is a memoir that traces multiple ways that the black male body can encounter violence in a society whose tradition and heritage is designed to destroy it.

Coates' work is intelligent, deft and of value to every American of any shade because it underscores how we can live under one flag and have markedly different experiences. The gold of "Between the World and Me" for me, however, is the discussion it engages regarding education — something that takes place in and outside of the classroom. When Coates was growing up in Baltimore, one of his main concerns was getting to and from school safely, as one misstep could lead him into dire straits. Once he made it to class, he studied a curriculum that included French and its verb conjugations. His quandary centered on the sharp and contrasting disjuncture between the social and environmental education — between his need to make it home alive and the formal, bookish education he needed to earn the good grades necessary for upward socioeconomic mobility. What served him in one world, perhaps bravado, aggression and street smarts, would likely punish him in another, say, the world of white collars that may favor approachability, cooperation and studiousness. But as a black boy/man wanting to escape danger — be that danger the violence of the streets or the school to prison pipeline — he was required to master both worlds.

In this work, Coates poignantly asks what aim mass education serves: to allow space, opportunity and structure for agile minds to explore what is curious, or to prepare a broad body of meek, obedient automatons towards lives of compliance — a worthy chunk of fat to chew for any student. Coates also makes a distinction between the rigidity of a curriculum and the free, unlimited knowledge available in libraries, spaces where students can direct their own learning. You have at least three ways to engage with

> ***"Coates' work is intelligent, deft and of value to every American of any shade because it underscores how we can live under one flag and have markedly different experiences."***

"Between the World and Me" in our collection: print, ebook or audiobook on go/overdrive/. Feel free to ask any librarian at the Research Desk about accessing the audiobook collection. For another work that poses the important questions of "What is an education?" and "Who sets the curriculum?," see Paulo Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed, available in print and as an audiobook.

Newsroom ~influencers~

By SARAH BOYLE, ELSA KORPI, and APRIL QIAN
Arts & Academics Editors

Here at Arts & Academics, we cover the cultural happenings on the physical campus. But what about the latest online phenomena that people are talking about?

The three of us are often sharing funny videos or talking about recent trends while editing our section of the paper, so we thought it was about time we let you all in on the fun. Each week, one of us will choose a current pop culture moment, whether it be a Netflix movie, music release or fashion style, and we'll share our thoughts.

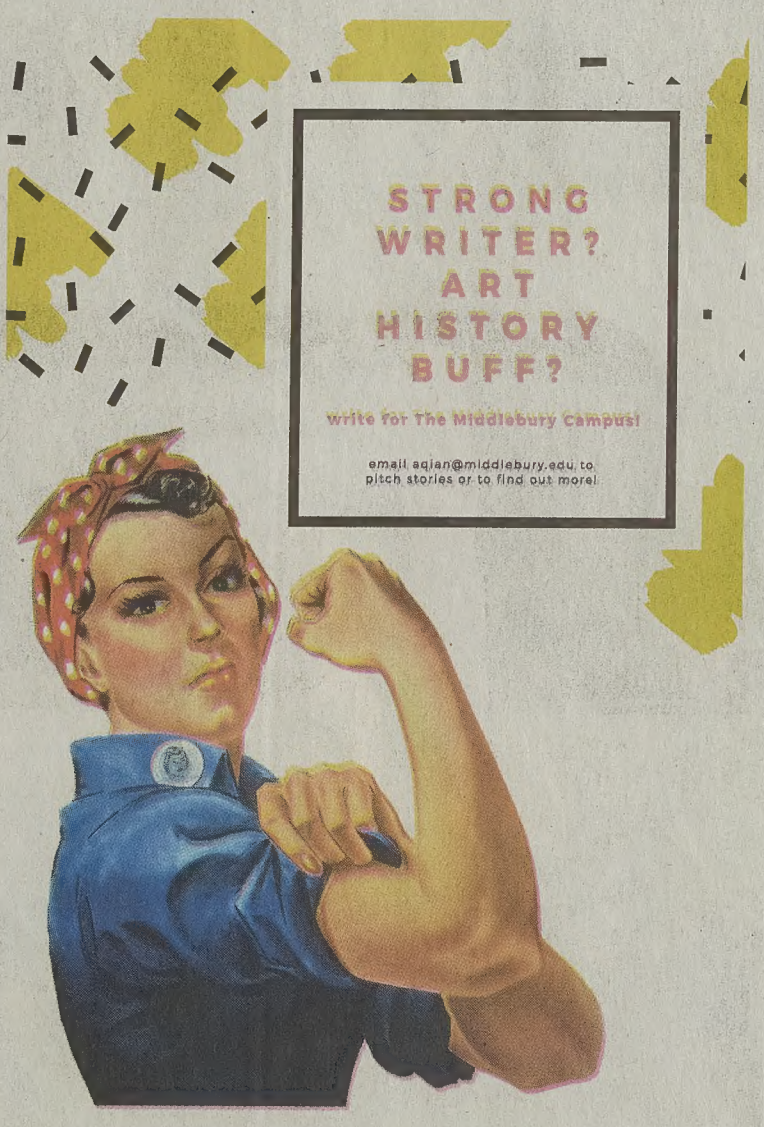
This week, Sarah chose Ariana Grande's anew music video with Miley Cyrus and Lana Del Ray: "Don't Call Me Angel."

Sarah: Ariana Grande is one of the biggest pop stars in the world right now, and her music videos become ridiculously viral within hours. What's up with her latest video for her new song, "Don't Call Me Angel" (featured in the upcoming "Charlie's Angels" film reboot starring Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott and Ella Balinska)?

April: I'm confused. What's Lana Del Rey doing with Ariana Grande and Miley Cyrus? As a longtime fan, I feel betrayed. Is she going through an identity crisis? Lana, tell me this isn't you.

Elsa: Though I was initially skeptical about Lana Del Rey's place in this line-up, her sadcore bridge brings some much needed textural change to a song that is otherwise so "Ariana" that it borders on boring. With three powerhouse artists like them, I can't help but feel like this is a bit unpolished, but I'll take it. Find me at Proctor streaming "Norman F**king Rockwell!"

SARAH FAGAN / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Cartoon Editor Sarah Fagan's sketch of Boyle, Korpi, and Qian as Charlie's Angels, in newsroom style and with a generous dollop of artistic license.


STRONG WRITER? ART HISTORY BUFF?
Write for The Middlebury Campus!
email aqian@middlebury.edu to pitch stories or to find out more!

@Paperhand artists

Middlebury Climate Strike

Sept 20, 2019

Walk-out @9:45am and meet at College Green @10am

Reel Critic: The Peanut Butter Falcon

By OWEN MASON-HILL
Staff Columnist

On a timely journey of self-actualization, Shia LaBeouf and debut actor Zack Gottsagen take audiences through directors Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz's story of finding self amidst personal struggles. "The Peanut Butter Falcon" (2019) is a film of renewal and rediscovery, of rebirth and the uncovering of goodness in an attempt to overcome personal circumstances.

In the movie, Zak (Zack Gottsagen) and Tyler (Shia LaBeouf) are trapped. Teenage Zak is shut in by familial abandonment and a genetic disorder, as well as the physical barriers of a nursing home (intended for his own safety and well being). Zak has big aspirations, though, as he spends his time watching tapes of his favorite wrestler, the SaltWater Redneck (Thomas Haden Church), who advertises his wrestling school located in Aiden, NC. Zak has no greater wish than to attend this school to become a pro-wrestler.

"The theme of human good, of bad deeds versus bad people, is a deeply laid one within the film."

Tyler too is caged in. Unable to live up to his brother's image of him, Tyler is haunted by memories of his death. Tyler's brother — Mark — (John Bernthal) lost his crabbing licenses when he died to Duncan (John Hawkes) and Ratboy (Michael Atha). This left Tyler unable to live off the land as he wishes. He retaliates, stealing crabs from Duncan and eventually burning their supply, stripping them of what was originally taken from him. Tyler becomes rebellious, unstable and fiercely independent, spiraling into a life of petty crime and selfish defiance.

The two protagonists meet when Zak escapes the nursing home and finds himself stowed away on the boat of local crabber, Tyler, who is evading the wrath of Duncan and Ratboy after setting fire to their pile of crab pots.

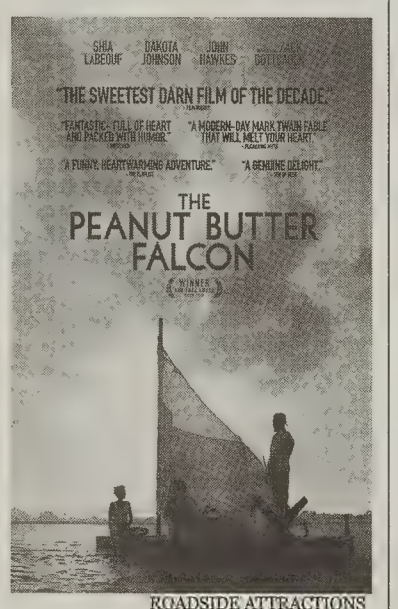
Though Tyler intends to release Zak as soon as they reach land, he allows the young man to trail behind him, under a simple rule: "Don't slow Tyler down." The duo aim to escape their pasts, marred by their previous mistakes, and seek to redefine themselves.

Along the way, the pair stumble across Blind Jasper John (Wayne Dehart) when they are greeted by errant shots from his revolver. Jasper John is a god-fearing man, however, and he understands the plight of these weary travelers and aids them on their journey. He provides them with a makeshift raft to speed up their voyage — but not before baptizing them in the river. Jasper John tells the pair of the good and evil within man. "There are sheep and wolves in this world," he states, "and you two are just sheep who strayed from their flock," offering a poignant reflection on the inner struggle to separate one's self from the mistakes and malice of our lowest moments. "Let the wolves of your past be laid to rest," says Jasper John as he dips their heads into the slow-drifting water, cleansing their skin of the grime of their faults.

The themes of human decency and the contrast of bad deeds versus bad people are central to the film. Zak assumes that because of his Down syndrome and family abandonment issues that he is a bad guy and thus seeks to create a villainous wrestling persona. However, Tyler allows him to see that he is ultimately a good person. Tyler accurately remarks that Zak has a hero's persona hidden within him, inspiring the Peanut Butter Falcon to be created.

The Peanut Butter Falcon is an inspiring figure, one who allows Zak to be not what he is, but who he wishes to be. In helping Zak find his true self, Tyler also finds himself once again. He is not the selfish rebel who seeks to destroy rather than to build; he is a devoted brother, who cares for Zak in the same way he once cared for his own brother.

The film ends in a beautiful crescendo of past lives haunting and new lives beginning: the Peanut Butter Falcon is fully realized. Zak is able to live to the fullest extent of his personality, unrestricted by his trauma of abandonment or the circumstances of his genetic disorder. And Tyler, who has redeemed himself through his guardianship of Zak, is abruptly forced to pay the debts for his previous wrongdoing. "The Peanut Butter Falcon" is a beautiful tribute to the personal journey we must face in order to better ourselves and move past our previous errors.


SHIA LABEOUF
DAKOTA JOHNSON
JOHN HAWKES
"THE SWEETEST DARN FILM OF THE DECADE."
"FANTASTIC - FULL OF HEART AND PACKED WITH HUMOR."
"A MODERN-DAY MARK TWAIN FABLE THAT WILL MELT YOUR HEART."
"A FUNNY, HEARTWARMING ADVENTURE."
"A GENUINE DELIGHT."
THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON
ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Reel Critic: MONOS

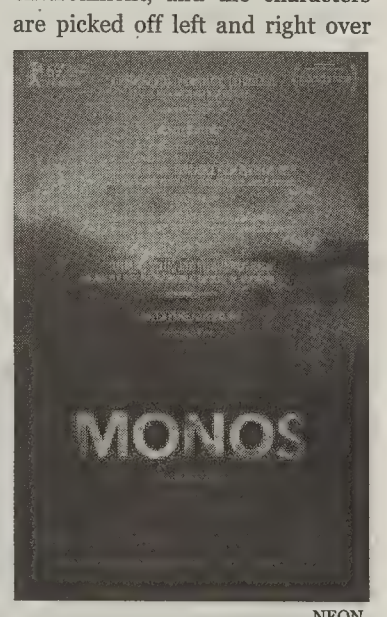
By NATHAN NEWBOLD
Contributing Writer

My impression of "Monos" (2019, directed by Alejandro Landes) can be best described by one of its most striking scenes: a band of teenage soldiers dragging the body of a cow across the beautiful high mountain fog. Having accidentally shot their one milk cow — their only apparent provider of sustenance — they string it up in front of a looming boulder and cut the meat off its bone. The stark contrast between the violence of the dead cow and the natural beauty around it is deeply unsettling in this gorgeously captured, albeit revolting, image.

"Monos" is a work of cinematic beauty. The camera lingers on the way the fog moves through the high mountains, the way the leaves of the jungle are pushed aside by a body moving quickly through them and especially the perpetually fascinating movement of water.

However, this landscape becomes a playground for a "Lord of the Flies"-esque survival story about a group of teenage soldiers. The context for the perpetual war that this group, going by the name "Monos," is kept intentionally vague. They are subject to some greater group known simply as the "Organization," made clear by occasional visits by the "Messenger," who makes the young soldiers run drills and give him reports on their activity. "Monos" also has a female engineer, a prisoner known simply as the "Doctora," who is occasionally paraded around and forced to make video appearances to prove that she is still alive. At one point, the perpetual war surrounding them finally reaches their hideaway in the mountains, but the only glimpses we see of their larger society are more dying soldiers and destruction.

The movie's real focus seemed to be the power dynamics of the "Monos" and the insular society these teenagers built in the theater of violence. They walk around the wilderness, shooting off their guns as an expression of power and frequently get into bloody wrestling matches that end in bruises and black eyes. But they also do things that you might find in any coming-of-age movie: they take hallucinogenic mushrooms, explore sexually desires, swim and laugh around the campfire. Unsurprisingly, the group succumbs to their violent environment, and the characters are picked off left and right over the course of the film.



NEON

The final shot seems as though it is about to bring all the pieces into focus, but the screen cuts to black before any clarity is reached.

My main problem with "Monos" was that it can be nearly inscrutable. It seems like an allegory for something, but some pieces are never fully introduced. The setting and cinematography turns it into a delirious fever dream that mashes up aspects of survival, war and coming-of-age films — it's a movie worth watching for the visceral experience it provides. I was consistently engaged, but it left me emotionless by the end and I couldn't help wishing it had offered up just a little bit more of itself.

Climbing the mountain: an interview with Jason Mantzoukas '95

By GREG SCHWARTZ
Alumnus Writer

Did you know that Dennis Feinstein from "Parks and Recreation" went to Middlebury?

This summer, Greg Schwartz '18 interviewed Jason Mantzoukas '95, the comedic actor who played Feinstein, about his years at the college and his experience acting in some of the funniest shows on Netflix right now.

The interview has been lightly edited for brevity.

In 2018, I graduated from the college with a theatre degree, and have since moved to LA to pursue TV and film. After many college nights spent binging "The League" when I should have been writing papers, I recently had the pleasure of interviewing fellow Middlebury alum Jason Mantzoukas. To this day, he's still making me laugh with scene-stealing roles in shows like "The Good Place" and "Big Mouth." I reached out to him to discuss his time at the college, his career and his thoughts on navigating the industry.

COURTESY PHOTO

Alumnus writer Greg Schwartz (far left) performing in a Middlebury Discount Comedy show in college.

On the Otters

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: What was your performance history like before coming to Middlebury?

JASON MANTZOUKAS: Once I got to high school, I started playing in bands, and I would say all of my first performance opportunities were exclusively as part of bands. I probably didn't do anything onstage as an actor or any kind of comedy until maybe junior year of high school. There was a class variety show, and I wrote sketches with a couple of other comedy-minded people.

So that was my first exposure to doing comedy. I didn't do plays or anything like that. And then when I got to Middlebury, Otter Nonsense Players had just started and that was a huge, meaningful period in my life of learning improv and doing sketches.

MC: Did the Otters do sketches while you were at Midd? Or was it primarily improv?

JM: I would say we did like 98% improv, but every once in a while there would be some sort of pre-written opening number or sketch. But it was very much an improv group. I feel like when I was there, there wasn't a sketch group or anything like that.

I played in a bunch of bands; I was in a jazz band for a while. When I was at Middlebury, it was at the height of jam bands, you know? Like Phish was still a Burlington staple. Phish played Middlebury so much when I was a student because they were a local band. But as a musician, that wasn't really my forte, so I ended up playing in a lot of jazz ensembles, and I spent a lot of time working at WRMC.

MC: Do you think your background with jazz and music has had an impact on your comedy career? Do you view those as related at all?

JM: I do, in as much as they are the experiences of my life. I wouldn't say they're a map, like here are things to do to be a successful comedian. In how my life has unfolded, all of these components — for better or worse — are the raw materials that inform how I've developed my comedic point of view, my work ethic and so on. What made me a bad student then or what made me procrastinate in writing my honor's thesis is the same thing that makes me procrastinate writing a script I owe somebody. So for better or worse, all these things are inextricably linked to who I am as a person.

MC: Right, and I guess you just become better equipped at playing into your strengths and learning how to deal with your weaknesses.

JM: Yeah, exactly. And as someone who is primarily an improviser, that idea of "Yes, and." That idea of not just agreeing to things, but also in order to move something forward, you have to kind of give more. You can't just say yes to everything, you have to add something to it. That "and" gives momentum, it's an engine that keeps driving you forward.

MC: When did you realize comedy was the thing? That this was what you wanted to do?

JM: I don't think I really had a moment of epiphany or some kind of "aha moment." I guess once I started doing Otters, I thought this would fit well with how my brain works, and it did. If I had any kind of "aha" moment, it was just once I started improvising. It felt very natural. Even though I wasn't very good at it, it felt like this was what I wanted to figure out.

MC: Did you learn a lot about yourself as a comedian during those years with the Otters?

JM: I don't think so, but hm ... That's a good question. I mean sure, probably, but I think for the first few years of improvising, really you're just getting your arms around improvising itself. I think you really are just trying to get an understanding of what it's like to walk onstage with nothing — no props, no characters, no lines, no understanding of what the scene we're about to do is — and getting to a level of comfort that I still trust what we're going to do will be satisfying, interesting, and funny, hopefully.

So while I certainly was developing my comedic point of view or persona, that was happening in the background, and I wasn't really aware of it. It's not really until I'm in New York at Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre that I feel like I really start making active choices about my comedic point of view on a larger scale.

MC: It makes sense that you have to learn the form and feel comfortable with it before you can find your place within it.

JM: Yes, and I think it takes a long time. In jazz as well as comedy, it takes a long time to find your voice and hone in on it. I think a lot of the time in the beginning, we sound like other people. We sound like people we like or want to emulate. And I think in the beginning people are faking it until they make it.

MC: Did you do any plays or any theatre in the Hepburn Zoo while you were at Middlebury?

JM: Yeah, I did one play because one of the other Otters wrote it. It was Dan O'Brien, who is Jessica St. Clair's husband, and he is an incredibly talented playwright, and he's published a number of amazing poetry books. So we did a play called "The Last Supper Restoration" that was then performed at the Kennedy Center. It was a very lauded play he wrote, which was very exciting. But that was the only play I did, and it was really only because we had developed a good rapport and relationship spending years doing Otters shows.

MC: So how did you end up getting an agent or a manager, whichever you got first?

JM: It was all based on a sketch show that Jessica St. Claire and I wrote called, "I Will Not Apologize." She was also in Otters with me, and when she graduated, she came to New York and started doing UCB with me. We were on the same Harold team for a while. We started writing sketches together, and then we wrote a sketch show, which was our big, transformative break.

At the time, there was a comedy festival that HBO ran in Aspen, Colo. That was the festival you were chasing for sketch comedy because it would put you in front of development people, agents and managers. It was where you went to get signed.

MC: But they don't do that anymore?

JM: They don't. Partially one of the things that replaced it, I think, was the Internet. I remember, years later, probably right at the beginning of YouTube, I remember the guys from Derrick ...

MC: Oh yeah, Derrick Comedy.

JM: Right — Donald Glover, DC Pierson, Dominic [Dierkes] and those guys all did sketches. They were all in a group at UCB, they were all in an NYU improv team. Then they kind of split off and started doing sketches, but they were doing them for YouTube. And I remember somebody saying, "Oh did you see that Derrick sketch? It's been viewed like a million times." And I remember thinking, "This is a shift. This is a moment." You know, I had been doing this for 10 years, and these guys put up one video that had been seen by vastly more people in a couple of months than had seen every single performance of mine put together. If you put together 10 years of sold out shows across multiple venues, we couldn't even touch a million views.

So that, I feel like, suddenly made it possible for casting directors, managers, agents, to literally just watch a video online as a way to access and discover young talent. And I think that has proven to be the case.

MC: In that moment when you had that realization, did you find that exciting or infuriating?

JM: Oh no, I thought it was exciting. I mean I was already too old for it as a platform.

MC: I don't think so.

JM: But I remember being like "Ooh, I wish I had this." I wish we had been able to make short films and sketches that could have lived somewhere and found an audience. I would have loved that. But I'm very glad I did it the way I did it because I'm really grateful for the years that I was just doing shows. For me, live performance is the backbone of my whole career, and I'm grateful for that. I think that history of having all those hours onstage makes me a good performer on set, it makes it very easy for me to walk into a guest-star role on a show, it makes me very comfortable on a performance level. But that being said, boy do I wish I could have put up sketches on YouTube, that would have been amazing.

On otherness

MC: I want to ask you about casting because I thought you might have a unique perspective on it. It's a divisive topic right now in the industry, and I feel like your point of view is interesting because you're Greek, but you present as pretty ethnically ambiguous. What are your thoughts on the nuances of modern casting and who can portray who?

JM: I don't really have, like, a very nuanced breakdown of it. You know in the period that my career has unfolded, it's changed. Early on, I would only get auditions that were for some version of "other." A lot of the roles that I auditioned for early on were accented roles. I auditioned for a lot of Middle Eastern parts, a lot of Indian parts, a lot of parts that had real heavy accents to them. You know, I play a Middle Eastern character in "The Dictator," I play a Latino character in "The League." Now, to be honest, I don't think any of that would happen.

MC: Just within the past few years casting culture has changed so much. Do you think that's been something you've needed to overcome? Or do you think that's been an asset to you? Have you given it much thought?

JM: I mean, I think about it in about as much as I think a lot of casting specifically is about how you look. And so I think that if you're an actor, you have to be aware of how you look and how that is perceived. It took me a long time to have a successful acting career, really it took me over 12 years to get real work consistently. But in that time, I had a successful writing career, and some of the most interesting and important realizations I had from a casting perspective for myself as an actor were when I was working with casting directors to cast shows that I'd written. Things that I wasn't an actor on. And that's when I realized casting can be very reductive, especially for unknowns, which I was at the time. People are really only considering "What does this person look like? Did I picture that when I was writing this?" or the casting director's thinking, "when I read it, did the description describe this guy?"

And for me, for all intents and purposes, the answer was no: They weren't picturing me, they weren't looking for me, they didn't want me. I couldn't get hired that way. A casting director pulled me aside once and said, "Look, I don't want you to get discouraged, but it's going to take you a long time to work because you don't look like anything people are looking for. You are not handsome enough to be the lead of the show, but you're too handsome to be his schlubby fat friend. And you are too ethnic to be the lead of the show but not ethnic enough to be his minority friend. So I can't hire you either way; you're falling through the cracks. But somebody's going to hire you at some point, and then everybody's gonna get it, and then you'll work forever." And that's kind of what happened with "The League." Once I got that, people kind of "got it." And I think that role was incredibly helpful in terms of demonstrating my skill set.

MC: Right, and you were finally able to be seen for what you bring to the table comedically.

JM: Yeah. And that's a show that's completely improvised, so it's really the most pure version of the tool that is the sharpest in my shed, which is improvising. That show happened to display the thing that I am the best at compared to, you know, I'm not the best dramatic actor, I'm not super facile with accents and all that stuff.

But people's first exposure to me happened to be a show that allowed me to improvise and have the point of view of this wild, chaotic character that I'd been playing on stage for 12 years by that point. But again, it took 12 years to get there. So by the time I get on the show, I'm 36 years old, you know?

"A casting director pulled me aside once and said, 'Look, I don't want you to get discouraged, but it's going to take you a long time to work because you don't look like anything people are looking for.'"

MC: When considering a role, do you read the script and say "Oh this is funny, I'm going to do this" or do you think about the direction you want to take your career as a whole?

JM: I'm always thinking about my career. I'm always making choices to do things that are meaningful to me in some way, shape or form. I only want to do things I think are very funny, very well-written. But I also might choose something because it offers me an opportunity to flex a muscle I don't normally get to flex or be seen how I'm not normally seen. For example, even though it's basically the same type of character I've played a million times, I did "Dirty Grandpa" because most of my scenes were with Robert De Niro. I mean yeah, I would like to do that.

MC: Hard to say no to that.

JM: Yeah, I would just like to do that. I'm always making decisions from the point of view of cumulatively building an entire career. I want to be able to look back on it and for each choice to have hopefully lead to more choices.

SARAH FAGAN / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

One more story

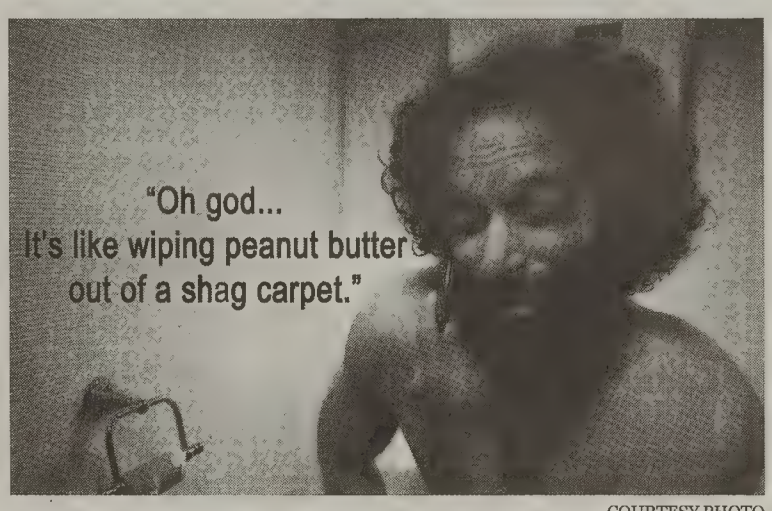
JM: There is no way to do [life]. There just isn't. Like, there isn't a way, you know what I mean? I talk about this movie "Touching The Void" a lot in relation to this business and success in this career. I don't know if you've seen it?

MC: I haven't, no.

JM: OK, it's a documentary about these guys who are climbing a mountain. And they're young guys, they're cocky, and they're like "we're gonna f*cking be the first guys that have climbed this route to the top of this mountain." It's very technical ice climbing, very difficult. It's the '80s.

While they're doing the climb, one of the men breaks his leg, which is essentially a death sentence for them. So they immediately stop and begin this very complicated process where the healthy man will lower the broken-legged man on the length of rope that they have. Then the broken-leg man anchors himself to the mountain, and the healthy man climbs down to meet him. They do this for days. They're running out of food, they're in white-out snow conditions — they can't see each other. Then without knowing it, the healthy man accidentally lowers the broken-legged man over the edge of the mountain so that he is now hanging in space. But they can't see each other, they have no way to communicate, they have no technology, they don't have anything. So the healthy man, after sitting for hours, has no option but to cut the rope. And for the rest of the movie — because the two men are still on camera, you know they're both alive — is about how they survive. The broken-legged man falls down to the ground into a crevasse, and continues to have a catastrophically-broken leg. And he says in the documentary, "If I had thought to myself, 'I have to get to basecamp, or I'm gonna die,' I would've just curled up in a ball and died right there because I didn't know where I was on the mountain, I was inside of a crevasse, my leg is broken, I have no help and nobody knows we're here." That was the other thing, nobody knew they were doing it. But he says, "Instead, what I decided was I set myself accomplishable goals. In the next hour, I'm gonna get to that rock. And if I can get to that rock in the next hour, I will survive."

The reason I talk about this a lot in terms of this business is because you have to make the hundreds and hundreds of smaller accomplishable choices that ultimately will get you in striking distance of Saturday Night Live or a writer's room or whatever. The thing that for a lot of people is a hard pill to swallow which is that you have to really get comfortable with not knowing. Not knowing if it's gonna happen for you, not knowing when it's gonna happen if it does and you have to be okay with the fact that if your goal right now is "we're gonna put on a sketch show," make that the best fucking sketch show you can. Like really get everything out of it you can. And when that sketch show is done, figure out what worked, what didn't, how can we change it for the next one, how can we re-calibrate, what are the successes and failures of this? And make the next one better, and make the next one after that better still, each thing getting better, each thing honing what it is that you do. Because you're not just going to get air-lifted from inside the crevasse to basecamp, nobody's going to come save you. You are the only person. It's only you.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mantzoukas played recurring roles as Rafi in the comedy series "The League" and Nuclear Nadal in "The Dictator."

DON'T MISS THIS

The Future of the Global Ocean: Clifford Symposium

The symposium will explore key environmental topics, from marine protected areas and submarine thermal vents, to ocean plastics and the influence of melting sea ice on continental weather patterns. The symposium will also host a screening of the documentary film "Chasing the Thunder", a story of environmental activism on the high seas.

Thursday 9/19–Saturday 9/21. Check online for schedule and locations.

Sophie Shao and Friends

This season, cellist Sophie Shao is joined by violinists Jennifer Frautschi and Zachary DePue, violists Paul Neubauer and Che-Yen Chen and cellist Fred Sherry for a program including Brahms's Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major and Schoenberg's "Verklärte Nacht."

Friday 9/20, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall

Hirschfield Series: 2019 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour

A 96-minute theatrical program of seven short films selected from this year's renowned festival. Including fiction, documentary and animation from around the world, the 2019 program offers new audiences a taste of what the festival offers, from sharply-written comedy and drama to edgy genre and an intimate family saga.

Saturday 9/21 at 3 and 8 p.m., Dana Auditorium

Community postings

Help wanted:
Opening for assistant cheesemaker

We are looking for a part-time assistant cheesemaker (10-15 hours per week) at our family-owned, certified organic creamery located in Middlebury. Applicants must be reliable, have attention to detail, be able to lift up to 50 pounds and work in a physically demanding setting. Weekends required. Prior food handling experience preferred but training will be provided.

Forward resumes to cheeseguy@cvcream.com.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY Hand Made CREAMERY

We still want your job ads, for-sale postings, personals – anything you want to broadcast to our 3,000+ readership.

Through these ads, we're hoping to better conect college and town, and to engage our readers in new, thoughtful ways.

Direct inquiries and feedback to campus@middlebury.edu.

Student Employment Office

Go to go/seo to see these postings live.

Public Safety Midd Rides Driver

Department: Public Safety
Level: Level B (skilled)
Posting number: STU00779

- Drive passenger van on campus; record trip origins, destinations and number of passengers transported; operate a hand-held radio.
- Good/safe driving skills; must have possessed a valid state driver's license for a period of 3 years.
- Must be eligible to attend the Middlebury College Defensive Driving training course, and successfully complete the driving orientation and ADA lift training in order to obtain a Middlebury College driver's license.

* Must possess good interpersonal skills and be able to learn how to deal with difficult people.

THEA Production Assistant

Department: Theatre
Level: Level A (general)
Posting number: STU00793

- Assist in all areas of theatre production, except costumes.
- This is a hands-on job. Candidates should have prior experience in some three-dimensional work — studio art; fixing things around the house; volunteering for Habitat for Humanity — that sort of thing.
- This is a physically demanding job.
- You must be able to work (2) weekday afternoons/week, from 1:30–5 p.m.

Global Health Project Assistant

Department: Global Heatlh
Level: Level C (specialist)
Posting number: STU00785
The Global Health program consists of an academic minor and opportunities connected to various experiential learning programs. This position will support the Global Health Program director's efforts to communicate the program's work and to strengthen connections among students, alumni and community partners. The position requires around 3 hours per week, though more hours may be available.

Responsibilities:

1. Take primary responsibility for generating a periodic program newsletter, including interviewing, article writing, photos/graphics, and overall design and layout.
2. Compile information submitted by alumni, enter data into and manage a database of alumni.
3. Compile and summarize information about local public health resources and organizations.
4. Provide background research, web searches, and written summaries to support the development of global health courses and programs.

See online posting for required experience and knowledge/skills.

RCGA Intern

Department: Rohatyan Center for Global Affairs
Level: Level B (skilled)
Posting number: STU00794
Responsibilities: To provide research and some administrative assistance in support of faculty research projects. Tasks may include library and on-line research, data collection and analysis, data entry, editing and report-writing, etc. Students will also work on other projects associated with the Rohatyn Center.
Qualifications: Strong writing skills, ability to work independently, experience in carrying out research in the library and on the Web, interest in international and global issues. Foreign language skills desirable. First through third-year students.
Commitment: 4–6 hours per week.

Center for Careers and Internships

See these opportunities and more at go/handshake.

Marathon Capital

MARATHON CAPITAL

Location: Chicago, Ill.
Term: Summer
Deadline: September 24
Analyst Interns are sought by Marathon Capital, the leading financial advisory and investment banking firm focused on providing financial advice in the areas of M&A, capital raising of debt and equity, project finance, and more in the ENERGY sector. Marathon Capital is one of the most active advisors in the North American Power and Infrastructure market with deep expertise in the RENEWABLE ENERGY segment. Interns build financial models and conduct in-depth financial analysis, create presentations and supplemental materials to support live transactions, and develop strategic and critical thinking skills to help clients navigate the rapidly changing energy and infrastructure markets.

Capital Area Immigrant Rights Coalition

CAIR Capital Area Immigrants' Rights COALITION

Location: Washington, D.C.
Term: Winter Term
Deadline: October 27
Are you hoping to get experience working on legal issues around immigration rights? CAIR Coalition is the only non-profit organization in the Washington, D.C. area with a legal services program focused exclusively on assisting detained immigrant men, women, and children in jails and juvenile facilities in Maryland and Virginia. Kindly offered through an alum. Apply now!

Focus Advisory Services

FOCUS ADVISORY SERVICES

Location: Los Angeles, Calif.
Term: Winter Term
Deadline: November 1
Focus provides exclusive financial and strategic consulting services to some of the largest independent film and TV companies in Hollywood, multinational media and entertainment corporations, international tax and equity funds, national law firms and independent producers. They want a motivated, creative, and independent thinker. Duties include analyzing film performance results, performing film industry research, preparing financial reports, creating business presentations, writing industry analyses, reading scripts and light office work, including phones. Interns will work on creating client presentations, conducting industry research, collating and analyzing proprietary data and building moderately complex spreadsheets.

Center for Community Engagement

See these opportunities and more at go/handshake.

Volunteer with Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

Vermont Families in Transition

Time: Every Thursday, 6–8 p.m.
Location: Vermont Families in Transition of Middlebury
PCAVT's mission is to promote and support healthy relationships within families, schools and communities to eliminate child abuse through skills-based classes that teach adults parenting skills. We need volunteers to play and engage with children ranging from 1-year-old to 11-years-old while their guardians attend these classes. Empathy and a positive attitude are a plus. Must be able to pass a background check. Dinner and a $20/night stipend available.

Please contact Heather at hniquette@pcavt.org or 802-498-0607 for more information.

Community Friends Information Session

Time: Thursday, Sept. 19, 12:15–1:15 p.m.
Location: Atwater Seminar Room
Community Friends is a one-on-one mentoring program that matches Middlebury College students with children ages 6-12 in Addison County. If you are interested in applying please join us for an Information Session this Thursday, September 19th from 12:15–1:15 p.m. in the Atwater Seminar Room. We will be discussing what it means to be a mentor in Addison County, the application and interview process, and there will be many current mentors available to answer questions about the program.

If you cannot attend the info session, no worries. Shoot us an email at comfriends@middlebury.edu to learn more or check out our website go/cf.

Open Door Clinic Medical Interpreter Training

ODC OPEN DOOR CLINIC

Time: Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m–4:30 p.m.
The Open Door Clinic, based in Middlebury, provides access to quality healthcare services, free of charge, to uninsured and under-insured adults in Addison County. This fall, we are looking for people who can either speak Spanish or who are certified EMTs (whether fluent in Spanish or not). The training will provide information about the clinic, the population it serves and techniques on how to be a medical interpreter, facilitating communication between Spanish-speaking patients and English-speaking medical providers.

Contact Chris Kokubo, ckokubo@opendoormidd.org, to get a volunteer application, RSVP for the training, and for more information.

LiM + MAlt Accepting Fall Break Mini-MAlt Applications

Time: Sunday, Sept. 22
Trip dates: Sunday, Oct. 20–Tuesday, Oct. 22
Language in Motion and MAlt (Middlebury Alternative Break Program) are now accepting applications for the upcoming fall break mini-MAlt trip/ Participants in this 2.5-day service-learning trip to Barre, Vermont will: 1) develop and deliver presentations and classroom activities that promote global awareness, cultural competence, and/or world language acquisition in the public high school, and 2) engage in collaborative community service outside of the high school. All interested students are encouraged to apply.

Information and the application can be found at go/MAlt. Contact Kristen Mullins at kmullins@middlebury.edu with questions.

Work with Addison Central Teens

Deadline: Friday, Sept. 27
Addison Central Teens provides a Teen Center in the heart of Middlebury, less than a 20 minute walk from campus. Every day after school we provide snacks, games, and positive adult presence in the lives of teens in the grades 7–12. We are seeking Middlebury College students for a variety of work study and volunteer positions: Program Assistant, Gaming Intern, Food and Nutrition Intern and Publicity and Media Intern! Involvement can range from remote internships to weekly afternoons spent supervising teens from 3–6 p.m.

Contact Cicilia Robison at cicilia@middteens.org and check out middteens.org/jobs-and-internships/ to learn more.

The Future of the Global Ocean

CLIFFORD SYMPOSIUM
SEPTEMBER 19–21, 2019

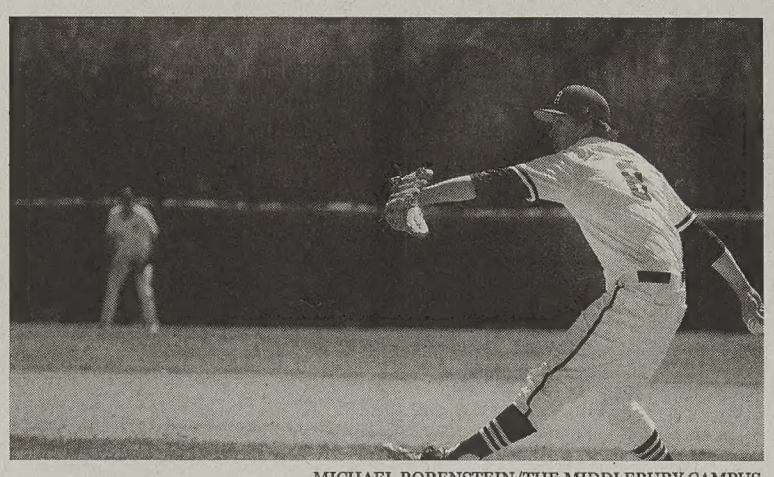
Overfished, polluted, warming, acidifying, and increasingly laden with plastic debris, the marine environment is in dire straits. Leading marine scientists will help us explore key environmental topics, from marine protected areas and submarine thermal vents to ocean plastics and the influence of melting sea ice on continental weather patterns.

go.middlebury.edu/clifford

All events are free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Environmental Studies Program at Middlebury College, the Franklin Environmental Center, the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs, and the Engaged Listening Project.

Middlebury College

COLBY MORRIS '19 AIMS FOR MAJOR LEAGUES



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Colby Morris '19 owns the record for most career wins in Middlebury baseball history (18).

By DAN MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

Middlebury isn't known for sending athletes to major professional sports leagues like the NFL, NBA, or MLB. Such is the case for all Division III athletic programs. However, if anyone were to wager on a potential big-league Panther, one should consider placing their bets on baseball standout Colby Morris '19.

The right-handed pitcher just completed a season with the Milwaukee Milkmen of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball (AA). The Milkmen didn't make the AA playoffs, but Morris' legacy with Middlebury baseball remains outstanding.

His name is scattered throughout the program's pitching records. Morris owns the most career wins in Middlebury history (18), is first in career innings pitched (256), career starts (39) and is second in career strikeouts (174). The right-hander earned the NESCAC Pitcher of the Year Award in 2018, as well as First-Team All Conference honors. His last season saw Morris win Second-Team honors.

These stats and accolades should be unsurprising; Morris had served as the team's workhorse and go-to pitcher throughout his four year tenure. His 2016 freshman campaign saw him pitch the most innings amongst all his teammates. The amount of responsibility shouldered by Morris early on in his collegiate career spoke to his coaches' confidence in his ability to deliver.

His edge comes from his composure on the mound and a competitive pitching style. "I love pressure," Morris said.

Morris' most reliable pitch is the change up. As he matured and grew stronger in college, his fastball gained more velocity, improving from 83–85 miles per hour as a first-year, to reaching 93 miles per hour after graduating.

Morris' talent was noticed around the country. Hailing from the San Francisco area, Morris played in the local Golden State Collegiate Baseball League in the summer of 2016. The hiring of current Middlebury baseball coach Mike Leonard before the 2017 season allowed him to connect with other summer league coaches.

For Morris, Leonard is much more than a baseball resource.

"Coach Leonard and I are very close. He reminds me in a lot of ways of one of my older brothers," Morris said. "We talk all the time, and I might even get on his nerves sometimes from all the questions I have but he has been extremely helpful to talk to this summer."

The connections provided by Leonard surely paid off. The summer after his sophomore year, Morris signed a contract with the Seacoast Mavericks of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League (FCBL) based in Portsmouth, N.H. The FCBL requires that 15 out of 30 players on each team have connections to New England, and the San Francisco-based Morris, having attended college in Vermont, was able to participate.

Playing in summer leagues is a different animal when compared to the NESCAC.

"NESCAC has a lot of skilled and smart players who scrap together at bats, don't hit for power and play small ball," Morris said. "In pro ball, the hitters try to do more damage at the plate and care more about their own numbers since their jobs are on the line. They're also far more talented in general and are more capable of hitting the ball out of the park."

Morris also acknowledged that playing baseball wasn't how Middlebury athletes typically spent their summers. Such an experience proved valuable for Morris.

"Summer ball allowed me to play without the commitment of school and I got to play against better talent, improving before getting back to Vermont each year," he said.

The summer after Morris' junior year was more hectic. Coming off a career season in which he won NESCAC Pitcher of the Year, Morris signed a temporary, 30-day contract with the Green Bay Bullfrogs of the Northwoods League in Wisconsin. The pitcher then spent time in Seattle to train extensively after the contract expired.

But in the midst of training, Morris was contacted by the Chatham Angels of the Cape Cod Baseball League (CCBL), which was rare for DIII players such as himself. The Cape Cod League is amongst the most competitive summer collegiate leagues in the United States, since it showcases many MLB prospects. Some CCBL alumni include Hall of Famers Craig Biggio, Frank Thomas, Jeff Bagwell and Boston Red Sox legend Carlton Fisk.

Morris went on to sign with the Angels, contributing to their bullpen's depth. Getting appearances in Cape Cod was difficult, because other pitchers had spent more time on the team and so had more opportunities to prove themselves. By season's end, Morris made only one appearance for the Angels, throwing two innings and allowing one run.

"Cape Cod was one of the best experiences of my life," Morris said.

To Morris' disappointment, he didn't get drafted by an MLB team, and signed a short-term contract with the Trois-Rivières Aigles in Quebec of the Canadian-American League just weeks after graduating.

After that contract expired, Morris signed with the Gary SouthShore Railcats of the AA league in Gary, Indiana. Talent-wise, the AA is similar to the upper levels of MLB minor league systems. Many of Morris' teammates were on MLB minor league rosters, had played for MLB teams, or were just released by those teams. Unlike MLB farm systems, the AA is an independent league. Thus, teams prioritized winning rather than developing prospects.

Morris was released by the Railcats because his fastball velocity dropped to 88 miles per hour, despite throwing 3.2 scoreless innings in his last outing. The Railcats overused his arm, thanks to the AA's "win-now" environment.

Once released, Morris walked over to the Railcats' opponent that day, the Milwaukee Milkmen, and asked to perform a bullpen session. He was signed on the spot.

The Milkmen finished their last month and half of the season with Morris, and managed to return his fastball to 92 miles per hour. Morris was re-signed, and the recent graduate still has his future sights set high.

"I'm hoping and expecting to sign with an MLB team this offseason," Morris said. "My long term goal is to make it to the major leagues, however, in the short term I just want to get into an MLB system to work my way up the ladder."

Morris' next step includes playing winter ball in Australia.

"For the time being I'm just enjoying the ride and the adventure of living day by day," Morris said.

Ultimate frisbee snags the ultimate title

By BENJY RENTON
Senior Local Editor

Driven, unique and fun. Capping a spectacular season this spring with players across class years and ability levels, the Middlebury Pranksters ultimate frisbee team achieved impressive results at this year's D-III College Championships, with the men's team snatching the national championship title and the women's team placing fifth.

The teams faced tough competition on the way to the championship weekend, capping historic seasons. Both teams started their seasons at College Southerns down in Georgia over spring break. The men's team went 6-1 in their games while the women won all six. "It was the first time testing our strength as a team and we took on top-ranked D-I teams like UNC-Wilmington's SeaWeed and Carleton Eclipse," co-captain Allegra Molkenthin '19.5 said. In the post-season, the men won all of their regional matches, qualifying for the national tournament for the third time (they previously advanced in 2015 and 2018). The women's team was on a winning streak throughout the first day of the regional championship, beating Brandeis and Wellesley 11-4 and 10-4 respectively, continuing to defeat Williams 10-8. Despite two losses to Williams and Bates on the final day of the regional tournament, the team finished third in the region and punched their ticket to the national tournament in hot and sunny Texas.

The journey to Nationals had its share flight delays and cancellations, as the women's team entered the tournament with nine of their players on the way from Orlando. Despite the lack of sleep, the team was ready to go. "The sleep deprivation and desire to play well for our teammates who had not arrived yet really helped us push through to take every point," Molkenthin said. The women advanced to the second round with a 15-0 win against Mary Washington, with 9 of their 24-person roster having not yet arrived in Texas. Competing against 2018 D-III National Champions St. Olaf's Vortex and still missing players, the team lost on universe point, or sudden death, 10-11. With the team now reunited, the Pranksters faced fourth-seed Puget Sound as the score creeped up one point at a time. In the end, the team came out on top in another university point with a final score of 9-8. After three games in one day, the team then won their pool and received a bye to the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinal round, the heat turned up and the competition did as well. The morning game consisted of a 13-14 universe point loss against North Park in 90-degree weather. Although the Pranksters were unable to obtain a place in the championship bracket, they scored a 13-8 win against Portland. With a fifth-place win in the national championship, the Pranksters achieved impressive results in their first national tournament since 2015.

The men's team's road to the national title started with a 11-10 win against Franciscan, a 12-10 win against Hamilton and a 14-9 win against Michigan Tech. Seeded first going into the tournament, the Pranksters played defending champions Bryant in the quarterfinals. Despite a hard-fought second half in which Bryant tied Middlebury 6-6 in points scored, Middlebury's 8-3 lead in the first half brought the team to a 15-9 victory. The semifinal round saw one of the mist exciting games of the tournament. After Kai DeLorenzo '20.5 sat out through most of the first half due to a heel injury, his return in the second half brought the team to a close 12-11 win against Richmond. Assists by Kevin Strenski '21 and Zach Levitt '20 were key to the team punching a ticket to the championship.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Middlebury Pranksters women's frisbee team placed fifth at the national tournament.

Air Force faced Middlebury in the championship game, having scored a 15-13 victory against Carleton College in the second semifinal. Trading holds all the way to halftime, Middlebury led the first half 7-6. Strenski became a star of the game with three goals in the second half. Tied at 12-12, the game would then be played to 14. Strenski received an inside flick and brought the Pranksters to a 13-12 lead. While Air Force received one more break, the team scored two more goals for a final score of 15-12. The team finished their season with a 31-3 record.

Junior Van Lundsgaard caught the winning disc. "I didn't really realize that I was going to score the game winning point," he said. "I just wanted to make sure we didn't turn it or lose our momentum." Lundsgaard attributes his success to a loving community he finds in the team. "It was as much the team's goal as it was mine," he said.

For captain Dylan Salzman '19, the team's championship win represents a special moment in the history of the program for both teams. "It speaks to the way in which Middlebury frisbee has shifted away from being just a social group to being real, well developed frisbee teams," he said. "We won by sheer willpower, and winning the finals felt cathartic. It's such a validation of everything that we had been working on, and such a testament to the team that we put together."

Molkenthin enjoyed having both the men and women compete at the same tournament. "It's very cool to feel like we are both incredibly talented teams and yet we do not take ourselves too seriously, and we value our friendship and sportsmanship immensely," she said. "We support one another on and off the field whether it's on the Middlebury men's soccer turf where we occasionally practiced, at the Spring Symposium for academic presentations, or at the National Championship." Despite the heat, for many members of the team, being at Nationals was an incredible experience. "The environment was electric – with incredible athletes from all around the country gathered together to celebrate excellence in a unique sport," Molkenthin said.

For both teams, a lack of institutional support from the college (as compared to other club teams) presents challenges. Since both the men's and the women's teams do not have coaches, captains serve in this role, running practices and organizing logistics for the team to travel to tournaments. For Molkenthin, she enjoys being in a position to lead this community on campus. "To be a captain of this team is to feel loved, to be honored with tough decision-making and last-minute logistical juggling, and to be supported by an incredible community that you know has your back the whole way," she said. Salzman pointed to the dynamic of a "player-coach" where he has to assert authority over his peers. In addition, the inability for the team to reserve field space on campus or have access to athlete trainers present barriers to the team's sustained success. "It means that we, as captains and players, have to battle for every inch of turf time we get in the winter, and struggle to deal with all of the administrational details that come with running a nationally competitive team," he said.

Capping off incredibly successful campaigns for both the men and women, the Pranksters feel optimistic for the future. For many players, ultimate frisbee has provided them with a supportive community and unique Middlebury experience. This year has provided them with new depth in the program, building up a new roster of players full of talent, commitment and potential. With various levels of experience and spread out across all class years, the captains strove this year to make the sport and community accessible to all. This year, the team has built on the traditions of previous years and has created a passionate and driven group. "This finish to our season is perhaps most exciting because it makes me think about the future and how much this team can do going forward," Molkenthin said. "I will have graduated by the time next spring rolls around, but I will be waiting with anticipation to see what my Pranksters can do."

COURTESY PHOTO

Grace Kellogg '22, Darya Khodakhah '22 and Olivia Ryder '19 celebrate after scoring a point.

Closing the farm team: JV sports cancelled

Continued from Page 1

Prior to the cancellation, JV sports had been putting "increasing pressure on sports medicine that made operating a safe program extremely difficult," said Isabelle Hartnett '21, SGA Committee director for Athletic Affairs.

Unlike club or intramural teams, JV programs had access to the college's professional training and sports medicine staff. With limited trainers and space, and multiple varsity teams practicing at any given time, there was a veritable strain on college resources.

Some members of JV teams like men's soccer received emails from coaches in the weeks before classes started notifying them of the cancellation, while others have yet to be officially notified. The Athletic Department did not make a public statement about the cancellation, and coaches of individual teams were tasked with letting their teams know, according to Quinn.

"We did not make a public announcement because the decision impacts those students interested in participating, so we communicated directly with those students," Quinn wrote.

The lack of notice has left some students confused and disappointed.

"The team was a great way to meet other girls [with] similar passions because there is so little space to do that at [Middlebury] other than varsity sports," said former JV lacrosse player Emma Lukens '20.

Former JV soccer player Matt Ravichandran '20 also remembers his teams as a welcoming community where he formed close relationships.

"It was a nice escape from campus life, without being as overbearing as a varsity sport," he said.

In addition to serving as social spaces, these teams have occasionally provided coaches a look at previously unseen talent, as well as players who might, with a year or two of practice, be ready for a callup to the varsity program.

Ravichandran and Jess Cohen '20 noted that JV soccer has been known to use the team to scout potential additions and as a rehab platform for varsity players coming back from injury. In addition, other sports teams have seen players make the jump after staying in form with the JV squad.

Amid lingering uncertainty regarding the decision, students who want to continue playing their sport will have to consider playing at the club or intramural level.

Sports recaps

Cross country

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By JORDAN HOWELL
Sports Writer

With the new school year comes a new season of cross country, and the men's and women's cross country teams are aiming to surpass the success that they experienced last season. The men ended last season with a third place finish in the NESCAC Championships and a 15th place finish in the NCAA Championships. The women ended last season by winning the NESCAC Championships, as well as capturing eighth place in the NCAA Championships.

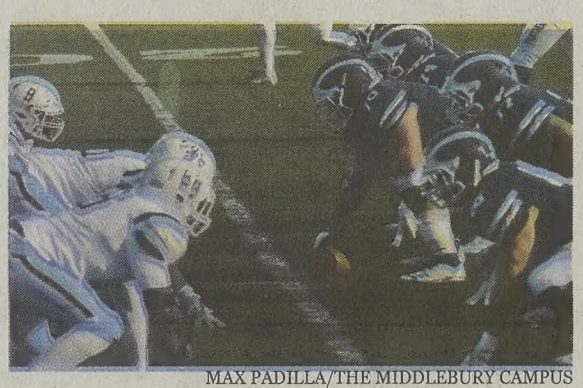
"Our main goal is to keep everyone healthy and see everyone reach their peak at the right time," Anna Willig '20 said.

The Panthers took their first step towards reaching their peak at the Vermont Tech Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 7. Both the men and women's teams captured first place in their respective races. For the men, the Panthers captured 12 of the first 17 places, with Fleming coming in first. For the women, the Panthers captured 13 of the first 17 places. Talia Ruxin '20 placed first amongst all runners.

"Team spirits are very high right now," Willig said. "We have had a fantastic week of training during preseason and are very excited about everyone who's new to the team this year. We have a strong, deep, talented team, and everyone is excited to see what we can do this year."

Already on track with their goals, the cross country team will be prepping for the Bates Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Football



MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By LAUREN BOYD
Sports Writer

The Panther football team kicked off their season with a 17–13 win against the Williams Ephs on Saturday, Sept. 14, scoring the game-winning touchdown with less than a minute on the clock.

The start of the second quarter opened up the scoring game. Carter Massengill '20 put the first points of the game on the board, scoring a field goal from 25 yards out.

Later in the second quarter, the Panthers scored an 18–yard touchdown, gaining a 10–0 lead. The rest of the second quarter, however, was commanded by the Williams offense. Between the second and third quarters, the Ephs scored 13 unanswered points.

With just one minute and 30 seconds left in the game, the Panthers marched down the field behind Jernigan. A series of short passes and 10-yard gains led the Panthers to the 2-yard line, where Jernigan punched in the game-winning touchdown. Massengill tapped in the extra point, making the final score 17–13.

Men's golf

JEFF PATTERSON

By JACK KAGAN
Sports Editor

The men's golf team finished at the podium for this past weekend's Duke Nelson Invitational. The Invitational took place at Middlebury's Ralph Myhre Golf Course and featured 23 teams from around the region. After a strong start atop the standings at the end of day one, the Panthers finished the tournament in third place, just one stroke behind Williams.

Jordan Bessalel '21 and co-captain Jeffrey Giguere '20 shined on day one, coming in at sixth and third place respectively. Giguere finished out day two in first place by one stroke ahead of Williams' Will Kannegieser. Giguere earned a combined score of 142. Neither Bessalel nor Giguere's heroics were quite enough to lift the Panthers into second place as a team. New York University finished first.

After a strong showing, the Panthers will have little time to rest before heading down to their rivals' turf in Williamstown for the Williams Fall Invitational.

Women's golf

COURTESY PHOTO

By MICHAEL SEGEL
Sports Writer

The Panthers outdid last year's performance at the St. Lawrence Invitational, this year coming in second place out of nine teams. On Sept. 7–8, five players from the women's golf team came together to accomplish this feat. Their impressive performance can largely be attributed to the work of Blake Yaccino '20, who finished third overall out of 47 participants. Classmate Chloe Levins '20 wasn't far behind, finishing in a tie for seventh overall.

Coming off the strong showing at the St. Lawrence Invitational, the women then competed in the Ann S. Batchelder Invitational on Sept. 14–15. They came in third overall behind Williams College and Wellesley College. Katie Murphy '23 finished tied for second overall out of 42 golfers, shooting a two-over par 146 (74–72). Yaccino finished tied for fifth at 154 (76–78), while Levins finished tied for 18th with a 164 (84–80). Elizabeth Kenter '23 finished tied for 27th, shooting a 169 (85–84), and Kayla Li '23 finished in 29th with a 170 (85–85). The Panthers will be swinging back in action next week at the Mount Holyoke Invitational.

Men's soccer

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By ERIK ARVIDSSON
Sports Writer

After starting the NESCAC season with a scoreless double overtime tie, the Panthers traveled last weekend to Brunswick, Maine to take on the Bowdoin Polar Bears. For the second week in a row, the Panthers struggled connecting with the back of the net. The team finished with six shots on goal compared to Bowdoin's 15 and neither were able to score. The game ended at 0–0.

The man of the match was goalkeeper Ryan Grady '23. Grady made six saves to complete his second shutout of the year. The Panthers remain positive despite not scoring in two consecutive games.

"We have been doing all the right things," Jack Spiridellis '21 said. "We just need to put the ball into the back of the net, then we will win games."

Up next, the Panthers played their home opener against Mt. St. Mary of New York on Sept. 17 (which occured after this issue was sent to print). The Panthers will round out the week with a home double-header this weekend against Hamilton on Saturday and Castleton on Sunday, Sept. 22.

Women's soccer

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By JENNY LANGERMAN
Sports Writer

Women's soccer had another successful week, winning both of this week's games to put them at five total wins and zero losses.

The Panthers first faced SUNY Plattsburgh on the road. Despite solid play from their opponents, Middlebury was ultimately able to shut them out two-zip with goals from captain Jinx Charman '20 and Leah Salzman '21, and the help of strong defensive play.

Middlebury then hit the road once again to play the Bowdoin Polar Bears, having to put up a tougher fight in their second game of the week. The Bears got an early lead, scoring within the first eight minutes of play. The Panthers matched them with a goal from Salzman, but were unable to pull ahead until the very end. With just a minute and a half of game time left, captain Ellie Greenberg '20 was able to hook one into the side of the net, securing the win.

The Panthers now have a week to regroup and prepare before their next match against conference-opponent, Hamilton College, on their home turf this Saturday, Sept. 21.

Field hockey

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By DAN MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

Field hockey fared successfully on their Sept. 14–15 road trip, defeating ninth-ranked Bowdoin College and 18th-ranked Babson College, 1–0 and 2–0, respectively. The Panthers had difficulty stirring up scoring opportunities during the first half against the Bowdoin Polar Bears. But they gained momentum in the third quarter, outshooting the Polar Bears 3–0. Finally, the Panthers scored 30 seconds into the fourth quarter. The 1–0 score remained until the end of the game.

Against Babson, Middlebury struck early twice in the first quarter. The Panthers struggled scoring for the remainder of the game, but still made some spectacular stops.

Men's tennis

HATTIE LEFAVOUR/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By JACK KAGAN
Sports Editor

The men's tennis team fell just short of divisional titles in four of four singles brackets this past weekend at the Middlebury Invitational on the Proctor Tennis Courts.

Though the squad is currently beginning a rebuilding process after losing its top two players to graduation, a bright future might not be so far away. The top singles flight saw unseeded Stan Morris '22 blaze through to the finals, taking out the No. 3 and No. 2 seeds in the process.

Robby Ward '23 also made a run to the finals in the B singles draw, knocking off No. 1 seed Brandeis sophomore Jeff Chen. David Vilys '22 and Zach Hilty '22 also made it to the finals in their respective C and D singles draws, and will look to use the momentum to propel themselves into a consistent starting role come spring time.

Surprisingly, the two doubles draws were devoid of Middlebury teams past the quarterfinals, likely owing to sets of entirely new doubles pairings.

The tournament featured teams such as Tufts University and Brandeis College, with whom the Panthers will have to contend if they want to stay at the top of DIII tennis.

Women's tennis

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By DAN MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

The Middlebury women's tennis team journeyed down Route 7 this past weekend for the Lindsay Morehouse Invitational at Williams College. The invitational followed a round-robin format in which the Panthers competed against three other teams in a full weekend of doubles and singles. No individual team was awarded champion.

On Friday, Sept. 13, three of four doubles pairs picked up victories against Skidmore. The following day, Middlebury swept RPI in three doubles matches, but only took two of three doubles matches against Williams. For singles, Middlebury swept RPI in all five contests.

Middlebury faced Skidmore again on Sunday for singles and won four of six matches. Against Williams, the Panthers won all three singles matches and won their only doubles contest.

The women will use this weekend to prepare for the ITA Regional Championships that kick off at home on Sept. 27.

Volleyball

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By HEATHER BOEHM
Sports Editor

Middlebury Women's Volleyball fell to an undefeated Clarkson on an unlucky Friday, Sept. 13, and split their weekend contests with a win over Potsdam and a loss to St. Lawrence on Saturday, Sept. 14.

In their first battle of the weekend against Clarkson, the Panthers came out expecting a war. Although they put some numbers on the board, they ultimately fell in straight sets to the 23rd-ranked team in the country. Gigi Alper '20 led the Panther defense, picking up 13 digs for the night. Jane Nelson '22 built on her teammates' efforts and led the offense with six kills.

After a hard loss, Middlebury got back to work. The women triumphed over Potsdam with a decisive 3–0 victory. This time around it was Maggie Wise '22, who took control of the Panther offense tallying 11 kills.

Although the Panthers were hungry for more, the women fell just short of a victory over St. Lawrence. Middlebury rolled through the first two sets before St. Lawrence stole the next two right back. Middlebury was then defeated by the Saints in the fifth set 15–12.

The Panthers will journey to Maine over the weekend, where they will compete against Colby on Friday, Sept. 20 and Bates on Saturday, Sept. 21.